inspiration for the hot anime!

samurai Harem

asu no yoichi

VOL 2

YU MINAMOTO

TOKYOPOP

VOL. 2
BY YU MINAMOTO

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Samurai Harem: Asu no Yoichi 2

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samurai Harem
asu no yoichi
YU MINAMOTO
New Text Message
Samurai
No Title
I send this letter to a very pretty girl with small boobs.
-Yoichi

CHARACTERS

CHIHAYA IKARUGA

BLOOD TYPE: B SIGN: SAGITTARIUS HEIGHT: 4'11" 34-21-32

SHE MAY BE SECOND-YOUNGEST, BUT THIS THIRD-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOLER IS ALREADY A PROFESSIONAL MANGAKA! YOICHI TICKLES HER CREATIVE BRAIN. SHE TRIES TO "RESEARCH" HIM CONSTANTLY.

AYAME IKARUGA

BLOOD TYPE: B SIGN: CANCER HEIGHT: 5'2" 31-22-33

UNLIKE HER BIG SISTER, THIS FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL KNOWS HER WAY AROUND A CLOSET. THOROUGHLY MODERN AYAME DISSED OLD-FASHIONED YOICHI AT FIRST, BUT IT SEEMS THAT "LIKE" IS THE NEW "HATE" AS SHE'S STARTED TO FALL FOR HIM. JUST DON'T MENTION HER FLAT CHEST. ISN'T FILLING OUT THAT CUTE NEW TOP.

KAGOME IKARUGA

BLOOD TYPE: O SIGN: PISCES HEIGHT: 4'6" 26-20-27

THIS SHRINKING VIOLET IS THE LITTLEST IKARUGA. THOUGH SHE'S YOUNG, THIS FOURTH GRADER EXCELS AT BIG GIRL THINGS LIKE COOKING AND SEWING.

RYO WASHIZU

SAPPY DELINQUENT WITH A CRUSH ON IBUKI, HIS CLASSMATE.

TORIGAYA

WASHIZU'S LACKEY. SORTA WACKY.

STORY SO FAR

FOR THE FIRST SEVENTEEN YEARS OF HIS LIFE, YOICHI KARASUMA LIVED IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH HIS FATHER, WHERE HE PRACTICED SWORDSMANSHIP. ALL THAT CHANGED WHEN YOICHI'S FATHER, UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE HORRIBLE KNOWLEDGE THAT HIS SON HAD SURPASSED HIM IN SKILL, SENT THE EAGER LAD AWAY TO THE IKARUGA DOJO UNDER THE PRETENSE OF "BROADENING HIS HORIZONS." THERE, YOICHI FOUND A NEW AND UNIQUE CHALLENGE--THE FOUR IKARUGA SISTERS. ALREADY STRESSED BY THEIR PARENTS' ABSENCE ON AN EXTENDED TRAINING EXCURSION, THE SISTERS REACTED POORLY TO THE STRANGER IN THEIR MIDST. BUT DESPITE THE INITIAL SCUFFLES, YOICHI WAS EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED. BUT WOE, A PAIR OF ASSASSINS HAVE ENTERED THE CITY, DEADLY SIGHTS SET ON OUR HAPLESS SAMURAI...

INTRODUCTION

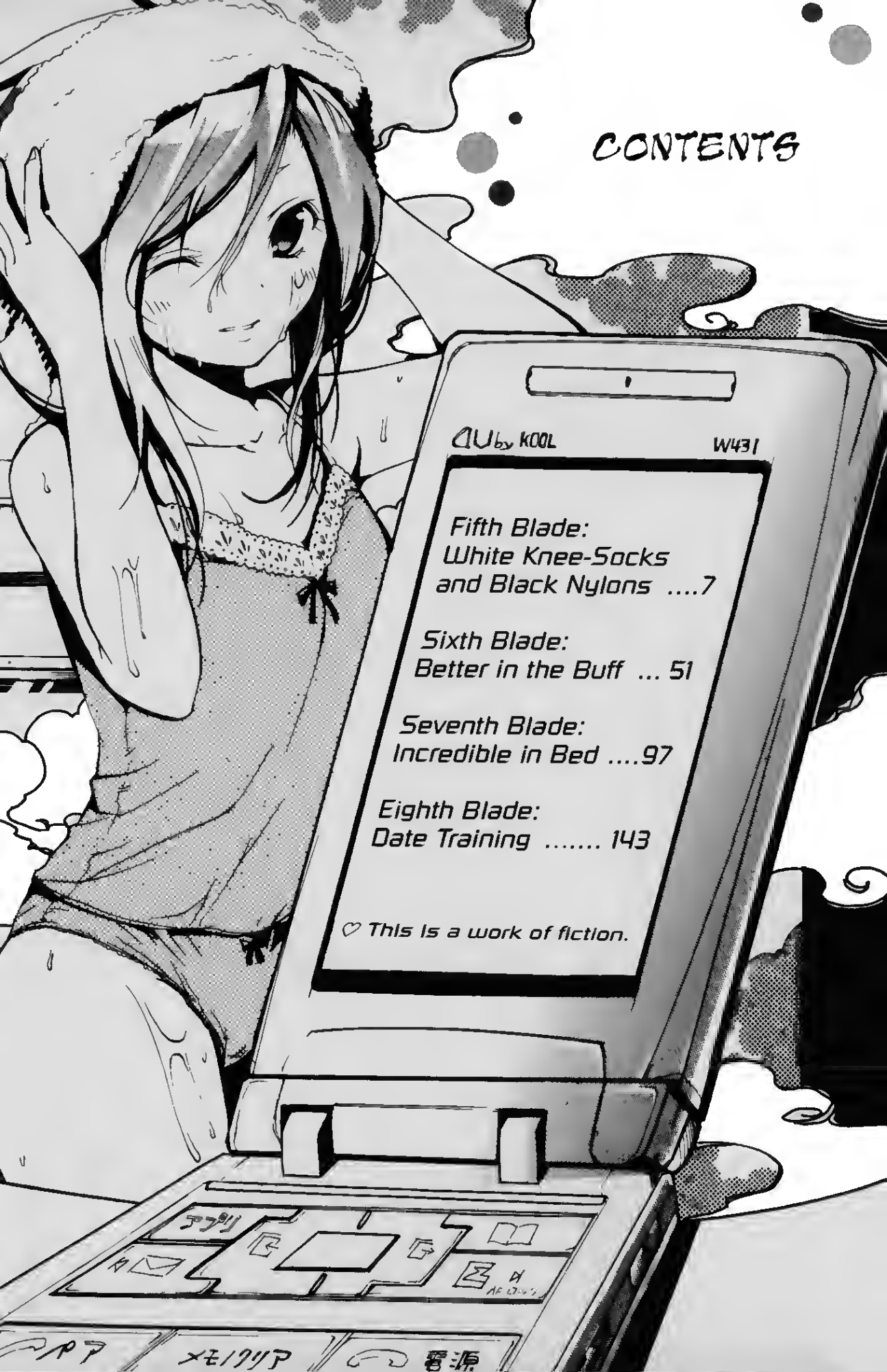
YOICHI KARASUMA

FRESH FROM A LIFETIME OF TRAINING IN THE MOUNTAINS, THIS YOUNG SWORDSMAN IS NOW A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT IN HIGH SCHOOL. HE MAY HAVE SURPASSED HIS OWN FATHER AS A MASTER OF THE SWORD, BUT HE HAS A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT THE MODERN WORLD...ESPECIALLY GIRLS.

IBUKI IKARUGA

BLOOD TYPE: B SIGN: VIRGO 36-23-33 HEIGHT: 5'3"

AS THE OLDEST SISTER, CARE OF THE IKARUGA DOJO FELL TO THIS SECOND-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHEN HER PARENTS LEFT TO TRAIN OVERSEAS. SHE'S GOT A DYNAMITE BODY, BUT IT'S HER TEMPER THAT'S DOWNRIGHT EXPLOSIVE.



CONTENTS

Fifth Blade:
White Knee-Socks
and Black Nylons 7

Sixth Blade:
Better in the Buff ... 51

Seventh Blade:
Incredible in Bed 97

Eighth Blade:
Date Training 143

♡ This is a work of fiction.

SO THIS IS THE CITY HE'S IN?

YES, TSUBASA-SAMA.

FIFTH BLADE: WHITE KNEE-SOCKS AND BLACK NYLONS

HIS CHARACTER IS OF NO CONCERN.
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM...
WHAT IF HE'S JUST A NORMAL BOY?
...NOT TO ASSASSINS LIKE US.
WE'VE COME TO THIS CITY FOR ONE REASON--TO KILL HIM!

THE TALL ONE, IS SHE WHITE?
DON'T SEE UNIFORM LIKE YOURS AROUND HERE. WHAT SCHOOL ARE YOU FROM?
NICE, THEY'RE HOTTER UP CLOSE!
UM, ANGIE?
THERE'S, UM, SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU...
HEY THERE, LADIES!
.....
STATE YOUR NAME, RUFFIAN.
.....
!!
JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT WE KNOW THIS AREA, IN CASE YOU NEED, Y'KNOW, A GUIDE.
OOH, SCARY!
NO NEED TO ACT SO MEAN, BABE.

U-UM...
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT, SWEET CHEEKS?
UNHAND HER, WRETCH!
FOR A DEGENERATE SUCH AS YOU TO MANHANDLE THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE GLORIOUS TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU STYLE...
...IS A GRAVE AND UNFORGIVABLE SIN!!
I, ANGELA TAKATSUKASA, FAITHFUL VASSAL TO TSUBASA-SAMA...
SHING
...SHALL DEAL JUST PUNISHMENT TO THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW THEIR PLACE!

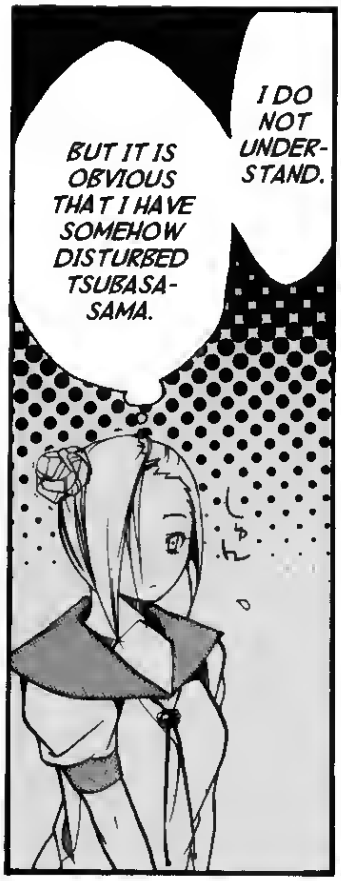
WHAT PATHETIC MEN.
HMPH! AND I WAS BEING LENIENT.
HNH!
THIS HAWK WILL DEVOUR ALL WHO GET TOO CLOSE!
A WARNING TO THOSE WHO DARE HUNT MY SPARROW...

Note: A play on names. Tsubasa's last name is Tsubame, which means "sparrow." And Angela's last name starts with the character taka, which means "hawk."

COME, TSUBASA-SAMA.
THE DANGER HAS PASSED--
WHOA! SHE TOOK THEM OUT IN, LIKE, TWO SECONDS!
.....
KIDS ARE SO SCARY THESE DAYS!
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT BIRDS FOR?
PSST
PSST
?!
STUPID ANGIE!!
HOW CAN YOU SAY EMBARRASSING THINGS LIKE THAT OUT LOUD AND IN PUBLIC?!
HOW COULD YOU?!
NOW EVERYBODY'S STARING AT US!!
PSST
PSST
sniffle
sniffle
THAT'S HOW PEOPLE TALK IN PLAYS! NOT IN REAL LIFE!
I DON'T WANT TO BE WEIRD! I JUST WANT TO BE A NORMAL HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT...
STOP IT!!
...?
YOU FIND IT EMBARRASSING...
...TO IMPRESS THE STRENGTH AND HONOR OF THE TSUBAME FAMILY UPON THE MASSES?

.....
sniffle
sniffle

...IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I WAS EVER TREATED LIKE A NORMAL PERSON!
YOU KNOW, A MINUTE AGO, WHEN THOSE BOYS HIT ON ME...
SNIFF
SNIFF


I DO NOT UNDER-STAND.
BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT I HAVE SOMEHOW DISTURBED TSUBASA-SAMA.

LET'S JUST GO TO A RESTAURANT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!
Waaah!
WAH! DON'T WRAP THEM IN LEAVES!!
I HAVE SOME RICE-BALLS.
I KNOW. WOULD YOU CARE FOR A BITE TO EAT?
MY PROFOUND APOLOGIES, TSUBASA-SAMA.

CHIRP
CHIRP

THERE!
THE MORNING CLEANING'S ALL WRAPPED UP!
THE DOJO LOOKS MUCH TIDIER NOW.
YES. THANKS FOR COMING BY TO HELP US!
YOU HAVE BEEN OF GREAT AS-SISTANCE...
...AYAME-DONO!
YOU'VE EVEN STARTED COMING TO PRACTICE. WHAT ON EARTH CHANGED YOUR MIND?
UM...
BLUSH

I WARMED ALL OVER WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT...
"EVEN WITH ONE BITE I CAN TELL YOU PUT EFFORT INTO THIS!"
TTP
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, THAT'S WHAT!
GRAB
?
Hmph!
.....
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M FIGHTING SOMEONE?
YOU'VE GOT TOUGH COMPETI-TION, AYAME!
AND NOW I CAN'T STOP WONDERING IF HE'LL SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.
BUT ALSO...
AYAME
IF YOU DON'T WEASEL YOUR WAY INTO HANGING OUT WITH THEM MORE...
...
STRIKE! YOU'RE OUT.
?
YOU'RE FIGHTING IBUKI, OF COURSE! DIS-ADVANTAGE +1--
SHE AND YOITSAN ARE IN THE SAME CLASS AT SCHOOL.

"GOOD LUCK, AYAME!"
BLUSH
THANKS A LOT FOR THE ADVICE, CHIHAYA.
WHAT DOES IT EVEN MEAN? WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, SPECIFICALLY?
HUH?!
UM! URR!
IS SOMETHING AMISS, AYAME-DONO?
AH ...!
UH...!
AYAME-DONO?!
SLAM
AAAAH!!!
WE WOULD DO WELL TO FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE!
AHA! SHE FOLLOWS CLEANING DIRECTLY WITH WIND-SPRINTS!

THIS IS THE SCHOOL YOICHI KARASUMA ATTENDS, TSUBASA-SAMA.
I-I SEE...BUT WHAT ARE WE DOING?
GOOD MORN-ING!
MORN-ING!
SURVEILLANCE! ACQUIRING FULL KNOWL-EDGE OF YOUR TARGET...
...IS THE FIRST STEP IN A PROPER ASSASSINATION!
.....
I CAN SCARCELY WAIT FOR THE SATIS-FACTION...
...OF WATCHING THIS MAN BREATHE HIS LAST.
.....
TSUBASA-SAMA?

THOUGH WHAT AN EXCELLENT KAWARIMI BODY SWITCH. AS EXPECTED FROM THE NEXT HEAD OF THE GREAT TSUBAME FAMILY!
WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE?!
TSUBASA-SAMA!!
WHAT ON EARTH?!
HEY THERE, BITCH.
WE'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE FROM THE OTHER DAY.

"TSUBASA-SAMA!! ARE YOU READING MANGA?!"
STUPID ANGIE. SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD DO ANY NINJA-STUFF LIKE THAT.
SIGH...
NO NEED FOR SCHOOL!
THE NEXT HEAD OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU STYLE HAS NO NEED FOR WHIMSICAL PICTURES!
NO NEED FOR THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF YOUTH!
NO!
ALL YOU NEED DO IS CONCENTRATE ON TRAINING!!
I'VE HAD IT WITH LIVING A LIFE OUT OF THE 18TH CENTURY!

I JUST WANT TO HAVE A PLAIN, EVERYDAY NORMAL LIFE!
LIKE ANY OF THESE STUDENTS HAVE!
TRIP
WAH!
MEEP!

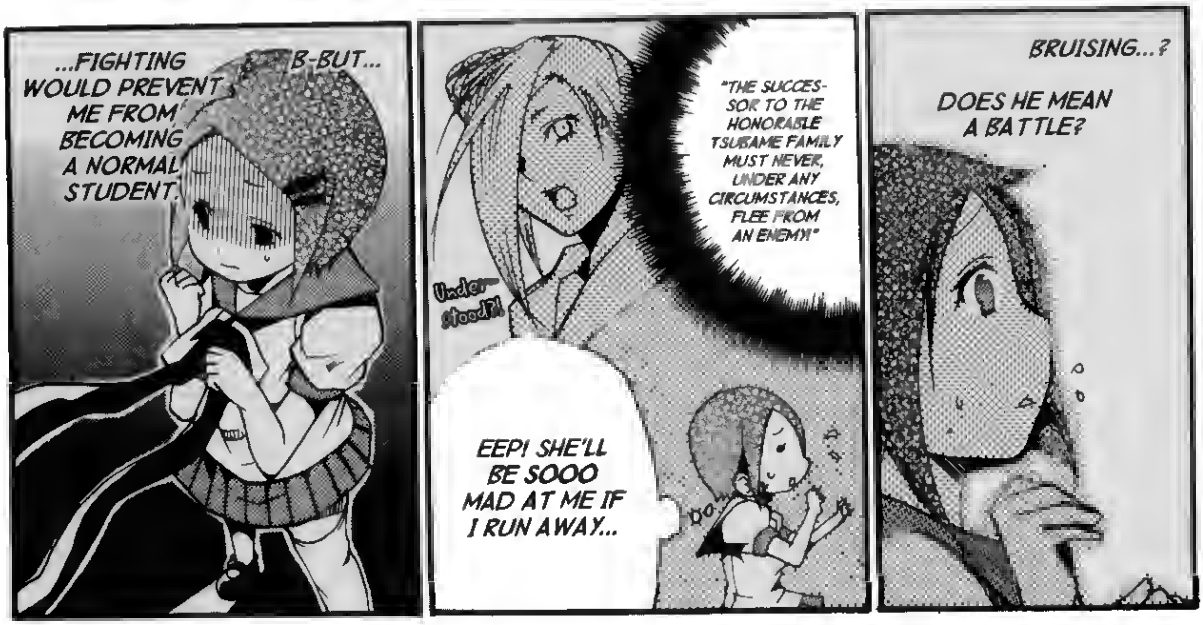
I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION...
OWWIE!
LOW
LOW

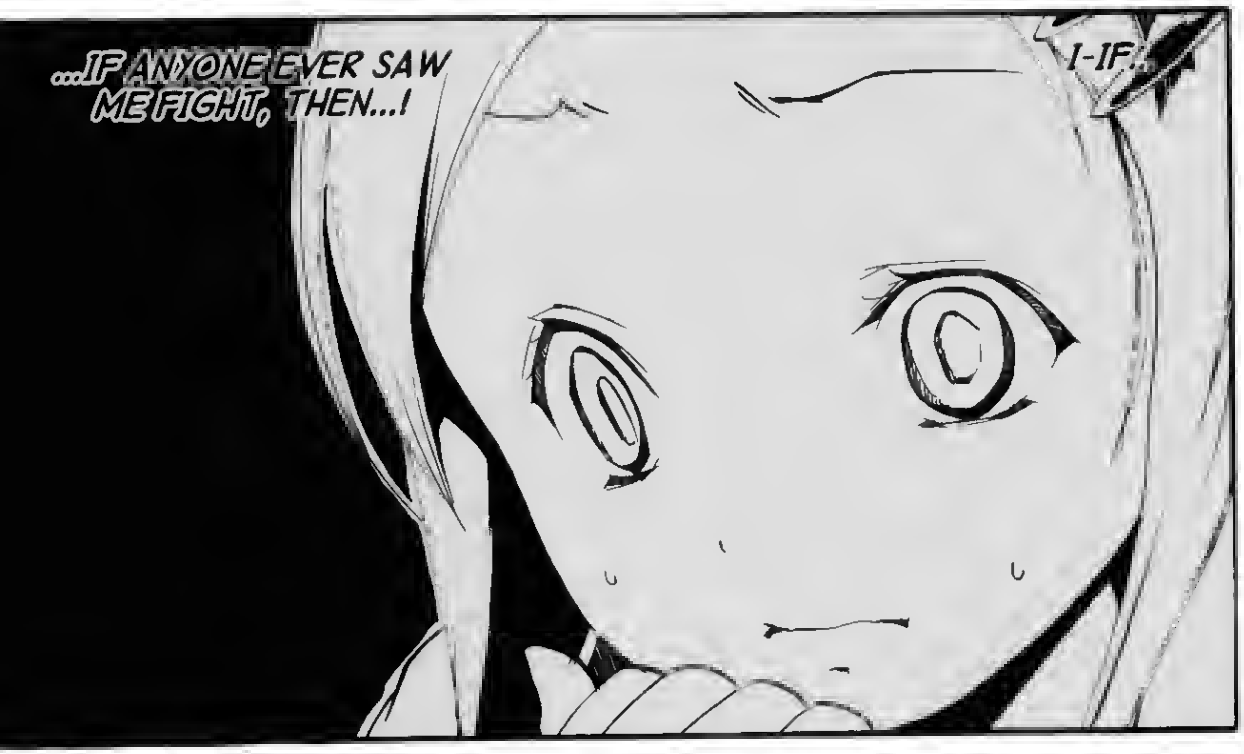
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM, ANYWAY?! THAT'S NOT ANY SCHOOL UNIFORM I'VE EVER SEEN!
SERIOUSLY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, SQUIRT!
.....

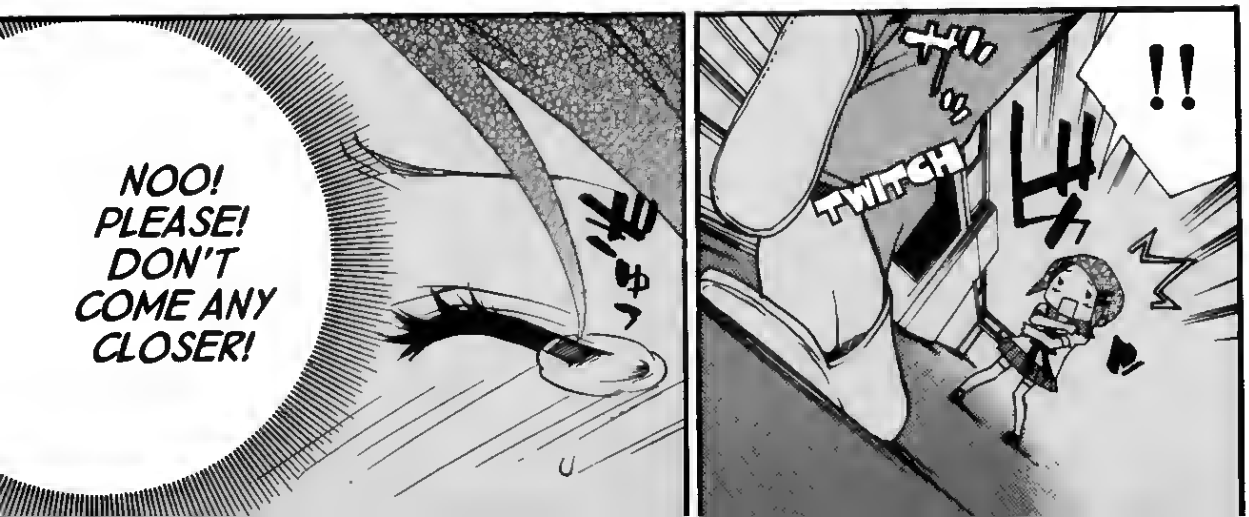
!?
!?

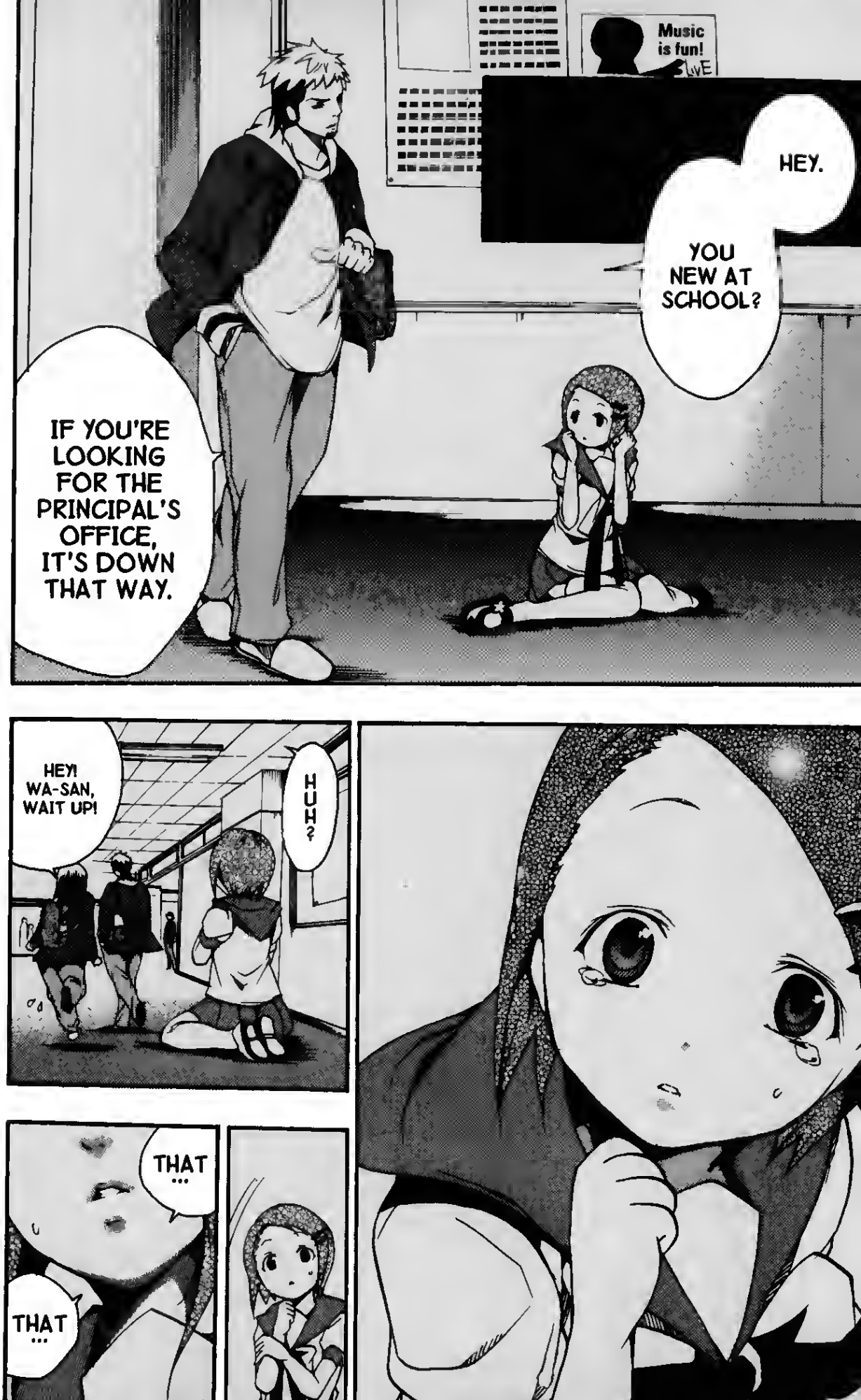
TWITCH
MEEP!
YOU LISTENING AT ALL, SQUIRT?! SERIOUSLY, YOU OOZING FOR A BRUISING?! HUH?!

DID I JUST GET "CAUGHT UP IN THE WRONG CROWD"?
What the hell?! Seriously!!
A-ARE THESE PEOPLE... "DELINQUENTS"?


...FIGHTING WOULD PREVENT ME FROM BECOMING A NORMAL STUDENT.
B-BUT...
"THE SUCCESSOR TO THE HONORABLE TSUBAME FAMILY MUST NEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, FLEE FROM AN ENEMY!"
Understood!
EEP! SHE'LL BE SOOO MAD AT ME IF I RUN AWAY...
BRUISING...?
DOES HE MEAN A BATTLE?


...IF ANYONE EVER SAW ME FIGHT, THEN...!
I-IF...


NOO! PLEASE! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
TWITCH
!!


Music is fun!
HEY.
YOU NEW AT SCHOOL?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE, IT'S DOWN THAT WAY.
HEY! WA-SAN, WAIT UP!
HUH?
THAT...
THAT...

"NEW AT SCHOOL." "PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE."
THAT WAS NORMAL!!
WHAT A PERFECTLY NORMAL CONVER-SATION!
...I HAD A COMPLETELY AVERAGE CONVERSATION WITH A HIGH-SCHOOL BOY!
?
YAY! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...
YOU'RE IN A SERIOUSLY GOOD MOOD TODAY.
WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT, WA-SAN?
I'M SO HAPPY!!!

ALL I EVER HAD TO DO WAS PUT IT IN HER SHOE-LOCKER WITH A NOTE.
I'll be waiting on the roof during lunch. --Washizu
WHO SAYS I HAVE TO GIVE IBUKI'S HANKIE BACK IN PERSON?
WELL, DUH!
I JUST HAD THE BEST IDEA EVER!
?
I READ YOUR LETTER, WASHIZU-KUN.
THEN...
DRAMATIZATION
...right to where we'll have our first date!
LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER TODAY...
I'M SO HAPPY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANY MORE, WASHIZU-KUN. I LOVE YOU, TOO!
I can't believe I left!
PERFECT, ISN'T IT?!
...HOPE IT DIDN'T STARTLE YOU.
I...
TO BE HONEST
...FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I...I...

I'VE ALREADY PUT THE HANKIE IN IKARUGA-SAN'S LOCKER. NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT. DAMN, WHY CAN'T LUNCH COME SOONER?!
?
WHEW! I SAY, THAT WAS A MOST WONDERFUL EXERCISE!
SHEESH! WHATEVER GAVE YOU THE IDEA OF RUNNING ALL THE WAY TO SCHOOL, ANYWAY?
IBUKI!
Mornin'.
EVERYONE'S SAYING SOME GIRL FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL SHOWED UP AND IS TRASHING SOME UPPER-CLASSMEN.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Good Morning!
THERE SEEMS TO BE A RUCKUS.

KOFF
HMPH.
I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD PROVIDE ME WITH SOME SMALL AMUSEMENT, BUT IT SEEMS YOU CANNOT MANAGE EVEN THAT.

!!
BITCH!
DAMMIT! THIS CHICK...
...IS A GODDAMN FREAK!
H-HEY, YOU WIN. WE'RE SORRY.
WE WON'T BOTHER YOU AGAIN, PROMISE.
GAH!
NOT ONCE, BUT TWICE YOU BRAZENLY FLOUT ALL PROPRIETY...
WHAT HONOR CAN YOU STAND ON TO GRASP FOR MY MERCY?

...WILL MAKE A LOVELY GIFT FOR MY LIEGE, TSUBASA-SAMA.
A PITY THAT HUMAN VERMIN HAVE TONGUES WITH WHICH TO ASSAIL THE EARS OF THEIR BETTERS.
YOUR HEAD...
HER NAILS...!
.....?!
DIE!
WE'RE NOT IN MEDIEVAL TIMES! PEOPLE DON'T GO THIS FAR ANYMORE... RIGHT?
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
H-H-HOLD IT.

WAH!
THWAK
AAAAAH!!
ボロ…

DID YOU SEE ANY-THING?
HOW'D HE GET THERE SO FAST?
WHOA, THE TRANSFER STUDENT!

WHEW...
HE MUST BE A SEASONED WARRIOR.

HE CALCULATED THE CORRECT POSITION TO BLOCK MY ATTACK IN AN EYEBLINK.
.....

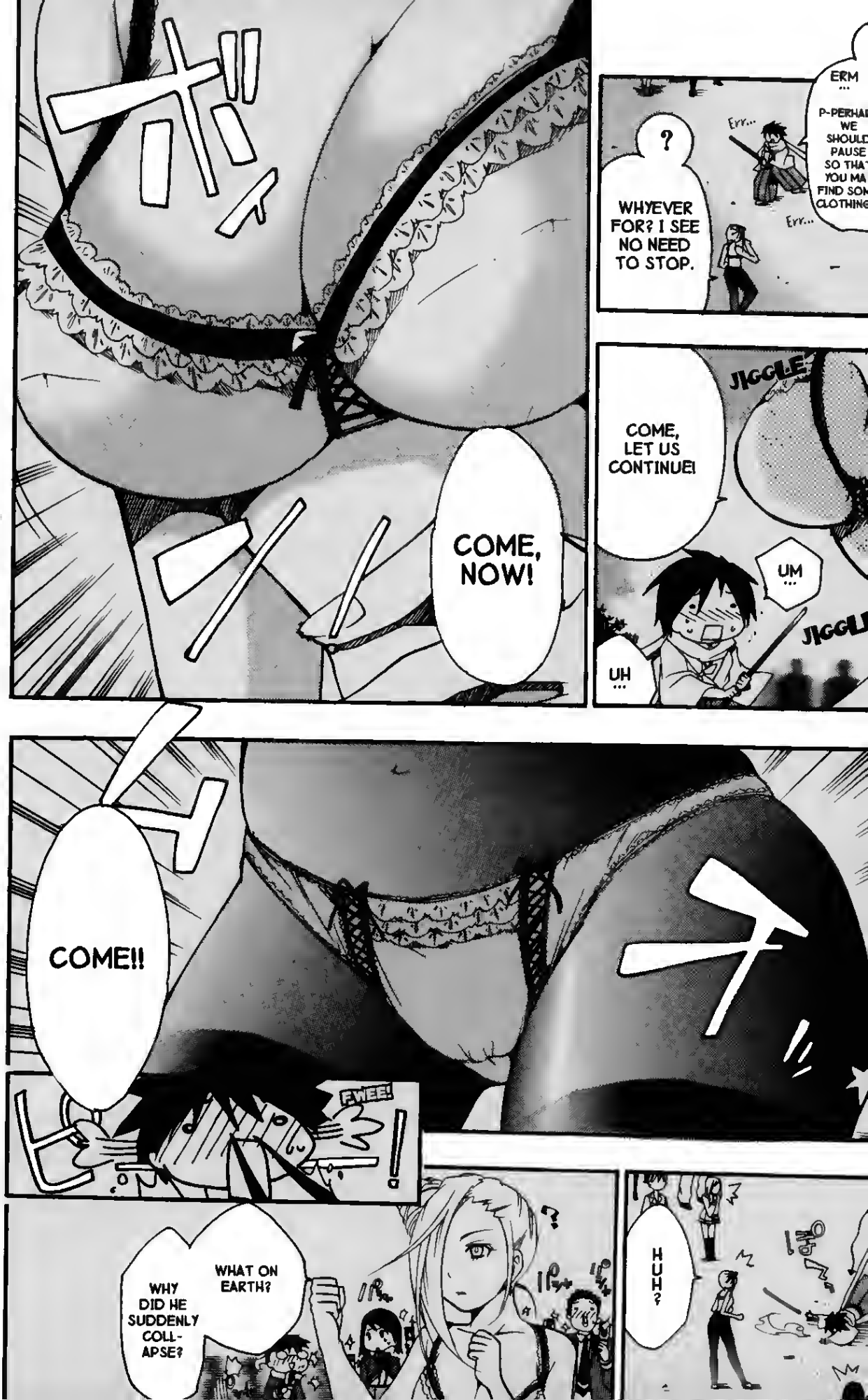
I MUST SAY, I AM CONTINUALLY IMPRESSED BY THE DIVERSITY OF WORTHY WARRIORS I FIND IN THIS CITY!
YOU POSSESS SUPERB SKILL, MADAM!
HOW DO THOSE CLAWS WORK? THEY QUITE INTRIGUE ME!
はぁ
HOW-EVER...
...YOUR OPPONENT HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED HIS DEFEAT.
...THEN I SHALL GLADLY FACE YOU IN HIS STEAD!
IF YOU STILL WISH TO CONTINUE YOUR BOUT...
VERY WELL, I ACCEPT.
WHAT AN ODD FELLOW.
LET US BEGIN!

!!

NO MATTER HOW PERFECT THE STRIKE, IF YOU DO NOT HIT YOUR OPPONENT, IT IS MEANINGLE--
RP
LO!!!

WHERE WERE YOU AIMING?

!!!
AND HERE I THOUGHT I HAD COMPLE-TELY EVADED YOUR BLOW.
WELL DONE.

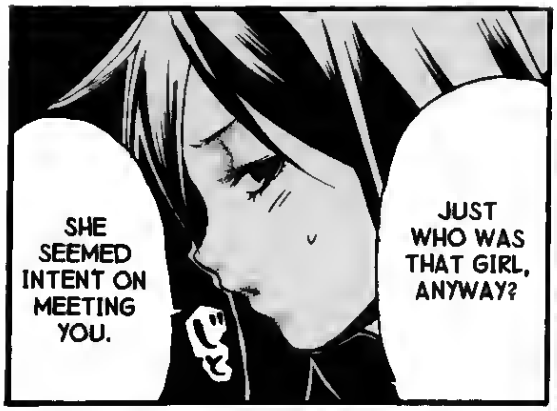

COME, NOW!
ERM ...
P-PERHAPS WE SHOULD PAUSE SO THAT YOU MAY FIND SOME CLOTHING
Err...
Err...
?
WHYEVER FOR? I SEE NO NEED TO STOP.
JIGGLE
COME, LET US CONTINUE!
UM ...
UH ...
COME!!
FWEE!
WHAT ON EARTH?
WHY DID HE SUDDENLY COLL-APSE?
HUH?

YOICHI-SAN!!
Gasp!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WATCHING?!
ARE YOU DELIBERATELY TRYING TO SABOTAGE THE GOOD NAME OF THE UKIHA KAMIKAZE STYLE?!
I-I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY! BUT THAT LADY, SHE--
NO EXCUSES!
"YOI-CHI"...?
"UKIHA KAMI-KAZE" ...?
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
?!
SNEER
HEH HEH HEH...
I SEE NOW...
SO THAT IS WHY.
SO YOU ARE YOICHI KARASUMA!
I UNDER-STAND PERFECTLY.
INDEED, WHAT A SAGE DECISION BY THAT GENTLE-MAN TO ASSIGN TSUBASA-SAMA TO THIS MISSION!

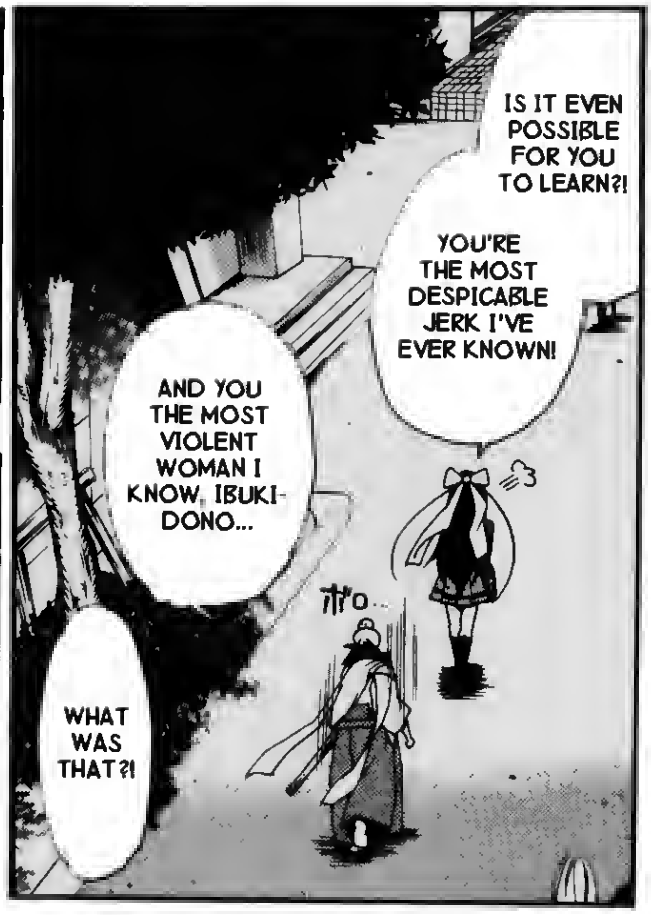
...NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR OUR BATTLE.
HOW I HAVE SEARCHED FOR YOU, YOICHI KARASUMA.
HOW-EVER...
BUT MARK MY WORDS, IT SHALL NOT BE LONG!
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...
SHE'S GONE!
GREAT, NOW WE'VE GOT A NINJA, TOO?
Smoke-bombs?
どよ
どよ
...KARA-SUMA!
!!
MY GOD.
WHAT A DAZZ-LINGLY BEAUTIFUL BODY...

UIOE FOR NEW STUDENTS
YOKKO PRIVATE
HIGH SCHOO
PRINCIPAL'S
OFFICE
ACK!
SKILLS!!
YOICHI-
SAN!!!
I-I MEANT
SHE HAS
DAZZLINGLY
BEAUTIFUL
SKILLS!!
WHUNK
AND ONE STEP CLOSER
TO HIM, TOO...
I'D REALLY
LIKE TO GET
TO KNOW
THAT BOY.
THEY
GAVE ME A
BROCHURE,
EVEN.
IF I ENROLL
HERE, THEN
I'LL BE ONE
STEP CLOSER
TO BECOMING
NORMAL!
I HAVE JUST
COME FROM
A MATCH
WITH YOICHI
KARASUMA.
COMMANDO
PANTY
着
SO HERE
YOU ARE.
TSUBASA-
SAMA.
POOF

NOO!! IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR ME TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE?!


SHE SEEMED INTENT ON MEETING YOU.
JUST WHO WAS THAT GIRL, ANYWAY?

WHAT?!
IS SHE AN OLD GIRL-FRIEND?


IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO LEARN?!
YOU'RE THE MOST DESPICABLE JERK I'VE EVER KNOWN!
AND YOU THE MOST VIOLENT WOMAN I KNOW, IBUKI-DONO...
WHAT WAS THAT?!

SURE, IT'S EASY TO SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT WHEN YOU KNOW I CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING!
OH REALLY NOW?
?
TODAY WAS CLEARLY OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER!
WHAT ON EARTH GAVE YOU THAT RIDICULOUS NOTION?!

I CANNOT BELIEVE SHE MISTRUSTS ME! SHE IS OBVIOUSLY MISTAKEN!
NOT THAT HER OPINION OF ME MATTERS IN THE SLIGHTEST.
SHEESH! DOES HE THINK THAT INNOCENT ACT FOOLS ANYONE?
NOT THAT HIS PAST HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME.
HMM?
THEN WHY IS THIS ALL SO IRRITATING?
!
AH!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!
NOT A THING. AND YOU--?

LUNCH
BADUM
IF IKARUGA-SAN'S READ THAT LETTER, SHE'LL COME.
BADUM
I KNOW SHE WILL!

Holy cow! Washizu's actually cleaning!
IBUKI?!
HI, WASHIZU-KUN! YOU'VE GOT CLEANING DUTIES TODAY TOO, RIGHT?
EVERYONE STEERS CLEAR OF ME BECAUSE I'VE GOT A BAD REP. EXCEPT IKARUGA-SAN--WHO ONCE WALKED RIGHT UP AND TALKED TO ME!
LIKE SUNBEAMS, EACH SMILE NURTURES MY GROWING FEELINGS FOR HER.
SINCE THEN, SHE'S SMILED AND GREETED ME EVERY DAY. ME!
SHE'S HERE!
TODAY, I'M FINALLY GOING TO TELL HER!
U-UM, IKARUGA-SAN?
I HAVE SOME-THING I--
TODAY IS THE DAY SHE LEARNS JUST HOW MUCH I CARE FOR HER!

I'll be waiting on the roof
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP

WHAT THE HELL?! I GOT THEM BACK-WARDS?!!
KARASUMA
IKARUGA
RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER
BOOOM

BADUM
WHAT DOES HE MEAN?!
HE'S FIGURED OUT HOW I FEEL ABOUT IKARUGA-SAN?!
BADUM
BADUM

WASHIZU-DONO, THIS LETTER...

Urk!
ARE YOU PERHAPS...?

I... I'M...
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
I CAN LET HIM KNOW I'LL NEVER LET A LOWLIFE CREEP LIKE HIM HAVE IKARUGA-SAN!
BADUM
NO, THIS IS GOOD! NOW I'VE GOT THE CHANCE TO TELL THAT STUPID SAMURAI EXACTLY WHAT I THINK OF HIM!

I KNOW! YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN LEARNING THE MARTIAL ARTS!
NEVER GONNA-
...HUH?
N-NO, I--
AHA! YOU DO! I THOUGHT YOU HAD SPENT MORE TIME OBSERVING IBUKI-DONO RECENTLY.
NO, SHE LENT ME HER HANKIE--
IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WISHED TO JOIN THE IKARUGA DOJO BUT LACKED THE APPROPRIATE WORDS TO EXPRESS THAT, YES? OF COURSE!
DUDE!! WOULD YOU LISTEN?!
I'VE GOT ABSO-LUTELY NO INTEREST IN--
YOU'RE ALREADY AC-COMPLISHED AT FISTICUFFS, SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
DON'T YOU AGREE, IBUKI-DONO?

OH...
IKARUGA-SAN...
HI, WASHIZU-KUN.
stutter
stutter
IF YOU WANTED TO LEARN, YOU COULD HAVE JUST SAID SO.
YOU'RE SO ATHLETIC ALREADY. I'M SURE YOU'LL PICK IT UP REALLY QUICKLY.
I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!

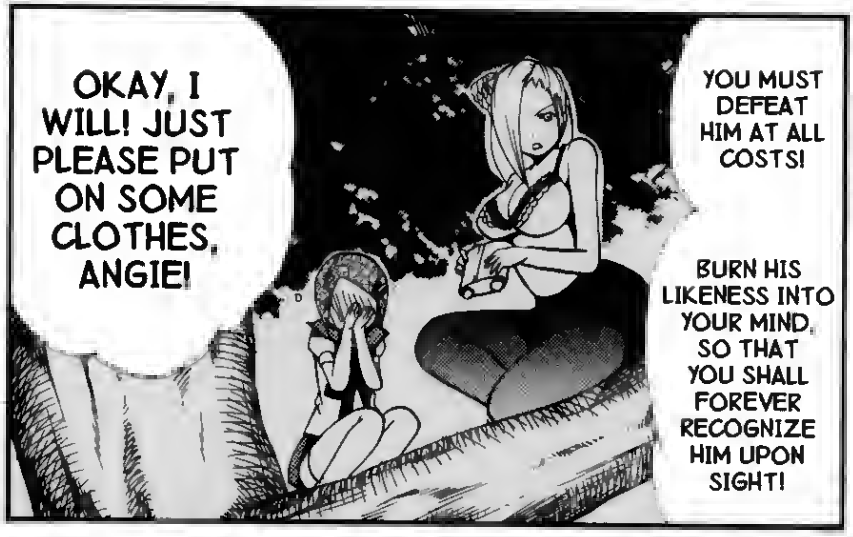
I'LL BE THERE!!

STOP BY ANY TIME YOU LIKE, OKAY?
DOESN'T MISS A BEAT
.....
VERY GOOD!

THAT'S HOW IT IS BETWEEN WARRIORS WHO HAVE TESTED EACH OTHER'S METTLE IN BATTLE, IBUKI-DONO! WE SHARE A DEEP BOND OF TRUST!
THAT'S A NEW ONE TO ME.
STILL, I WONDER WHY HE RETURNED MY HANKIE THROUGH YOU?

YOICHI-SAN, I HAVE A... CONFES-SION, OF SORTS.
I'VE NEVER LIKED CLEANING THE DOJO EVERY MORNING.
IT'S HUGE AND EMPTY. AND LONELY.
IT'S MY, TRUE! TODAY HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A FORTUI-TOUS ONE FOR YOU!
FIRST AYAME-DONO DECIDES TO JOIN US, NOW WASHIZU-DONO AS WELL!
THE DOJO WILL BECOME A LIVELY PLACE!
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOUR COMING WOULD CHANGE ALL THAT!
NOW I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR MORNING CLEANING!
BADUM
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING...

?
NO MATTER HOW LOVELY I TOLD IBUKI-DONO HER SMILE WAS JUST NOW...
...IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT SHE WOULD PUNCH ME.


OKAY, I WILL! JUST PLEASE PUT ON SOME CLOTHES, ANGIE!
YOU MUST DEFEAT HIM AT ALL COSTS!
BURN HIS LIKENESS INTO YOUR MIND, SO THAT YOU SHALL FOREVER RECOGNIZE HIM UPON SIGHT!

THERE HE IS. YOICHI KARASUMA.
TSUBASA-SAMA.

SAY WHAT?
MARTIAL ARTS ARE PRETTY AWESOME, DON'T YA THINK?
HEY, TORIGAYA.

SIXTH BLADE: BETTER IN THE BUFF

"HOW I HAVE SEARCHED FOR YOU, YOICHI KARASUMA."
"HOWEVER, NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR OUR BATTLE."
"BUT MARK MY WORDS, IT SHALL NOT BE LONG IN COMING!"
.....

HOWEVER, I CANNOT CLAIM THE SAME ADVANTAGE OVER HER.
SHE SEEMS TO KNOW ME.
WHO COULD THAT WOMAN BE?
ALL RISE.
BOW.
I AM CERTAIN I HAVE NEVER MET A WOMAN SO...
...SO VERY...

HEY, DID YOU HEAR? WE'RE GETTING ANOTHER TRANSFER STUDENT!
FOR REAL?
IS IT A GUY OR A GIRL?

YOU WERE DROOLING.
WHY...?

WE'RE STARTING A COL-LECTION.
WILL IT BE ANOTHER SAMURAI?
HA HA...
I HOPE IT'S A CUTE GIRL.

COME ON IN.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE. QUIET DOWN.
I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW STUDENT.

ガラッ

UM...
I-I'M TSUBASA TSUBAME.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
A GIRL!
DAMN, SHE'S CUTE!
SHE'S SO PE-TITE!
WHAT A LOVELY YOUNG LADY.
GRR!
WHY ...?
YOU WERE DROOL-ING.
.....

"WHAT? YOU WANT TO BE THE ONE TO KILL YOICHI KARASUMA?"
TSUBASA-SAMA...
Y-YOU PERSONALLY, TSUBASA-SAMA?
Y-YEAH! SO I, UM...
.....!
I'D LIKE TO ATTEND THIS SCHOOL!
SO I CAN GET CLOSE TO HIM WITHOUT RAISING HIS SUSPICIONS, OF COURSE!
GUIDE FOR NEW STUDENTS
YOKKO PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL
I SEE!
YOU PLAN TO BEFRIEND HIM SO THAT YOU MAY BETRAY HIM AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT OF WEAKNESS!
Y-YEAH! THAT! THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING!

A BRILLIANT STRATEGY, TSUBASA-SAMA!
.....
FOR HER TO VOLUNTEER FOR A MISSION HERSELF...
...IS A FIRST. A VERY BIG FIRST.
I, ANGELA TAKATSUKASA...
...AM FILLED WITH A HUMBLE PRIDE AT MY LIEGE'S GROWTH!
LET US FIGHT, TSUBASA-SAMA!
MAY THE RESULTS OF OUR BATTLE EXALT OUR BELOVED TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU!

I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS!
TSUBASA-CHAN, WAS IT?
ガキ
ガキ
ちろ
SO THIS IS WHAT ORDINARY FEELS LIKE!
I'M IN A SCHOOL.
ビキ
ビキ
A CLASSROOM.
CLASSMATES.

WHAT WAS THE SCHOOL YOU WENT TO BEFORE LIKE?
I HAD TO TRICK ANGIE, BUT I GOT MY CHANCE!
IF I DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT, I HAVE TO PASS FOR A PERFECTLY NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!
TSUBAME-SAN?
Ah...
I, um...
I CAN'T TELL THEM!!
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY LIKE?
...DOING NOTHING ALL DAY BUT TRAINING!
I CAN NEVER, EVER TELL THEM THAT MY WHOLE FAMILY LIVES WAY OFF IN THE MOUNTAINS...

HA HA...
AWKWARD
UH...
SORE SUBJECT? I GUESS SO...
Sorry for prying...
.....
SILENCE
YOU HAVE NO NEED OF TV!
Urk!
SO, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW?
YOU HAVE NO NEED OF A BOOM-BOX!
Urk!
OR HOW ABOUT MUSIC? WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE BAND?
YUMMY!
THESE FRUITS ARE EDIBLE.
Urk!
YOU LIKE CANDY, RIGHT? WHAT KINDS?
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE THING I CAN TALK ABOUT WITH THEM!
WH-WHAT SHOULD I SAY...?

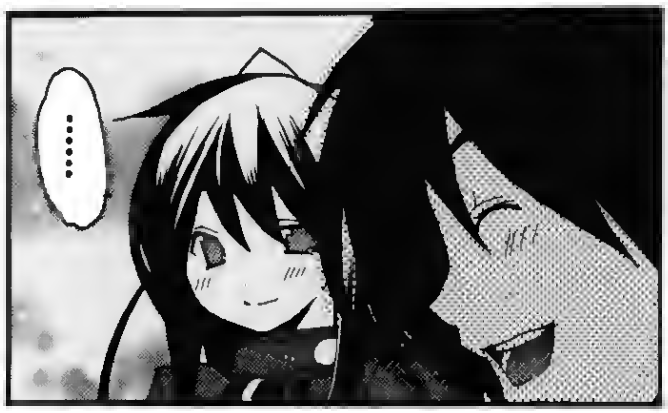
BUT WHAT?
I HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOME TOPIC!
UM... LET'S SEE...
AHA HA HA...
THEY'RE BEING NICE AND TALKING TO ME, BUT...!
UMM...
ーーんMMM...
ーーん
YOU TWO! NO PLAYING WITH SOCCER BALLS IN THE CLASSROOM!
C'MON, WE'RE NOT HURTING ANYONE! ♡
PASS TO ME!
WHOOPS, CRAP! I MISSED!
!!
TSUBAME-SAN, LOOK OUT!!

GASP! OH NO!
I MUST HAVE REACTED TO SOME DANGER WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT!
PHLOOMP
HMM?
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT HAPPENED?
I WOULD TOO IF SOMEONE SPLIT A BALL IN HALF WITH THEIR BARE HAND! IT ISN'T NORMAL!
DISTANCE
DISTANCE
DISTANCE
NOOO! EVERYBODY'S BACKING AWAY FROM ME!
THAT WAS INCREDIBLE!
WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO FLUB THINGS UP?!
FAILURE! DEAD OUT OF THE GATE!

YOUR TRAINING REGIME MUST BE IMPRES-SIVE!
YOU SPLIT THAT BALL IN HALF WITH NARY A GLANCE AT IT!
YOICHI KARASUMA!
.....!
LIKE YOU, I MYSELF HAVE BEEN AT THIS SCHOOL BUT FOR A LITTLE.
I OUGHT TO JUST STEER CLEAR OF HIM.
BUT IF I ELIMINATE HIM, I CAN KISS NORMAL LIFE GOODBYE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT HANDLING HIS TYPE
ふぅぅん！
Tra-is-ing.
ホロヘ…

...TO LEARN THAT SCHOOL IS A WONDERFULLY FUN PLACE!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, EVERYONE?
HOWEVER, I DID NOT NEED LONG...

SORRY, TSUBAME-SAN.
THEY DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT. THEY'RE JUST EAGER TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.
YOICHI-SAN! STOP HITTING ON HER!
AND THE REST OF YOU, ENOUGH QUESTIONS! GIVE THE POOR GIRL A CHANCE TO BREATHE!
AND BY WAY OF THAT, FORGIVE MY TARDY INTRODUC-TION.
I AM CALLED YOICHI KARASUMA! IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!
AND I'M IBUKI IKARUGA, YOUR CLASS REPRESEN-TATIVE.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
JUST A MINUTE AGO, THE SILENCE WAS DEAFENING, BUT NOW...
IT'S LIKE MAGIC.
Glad to meet you!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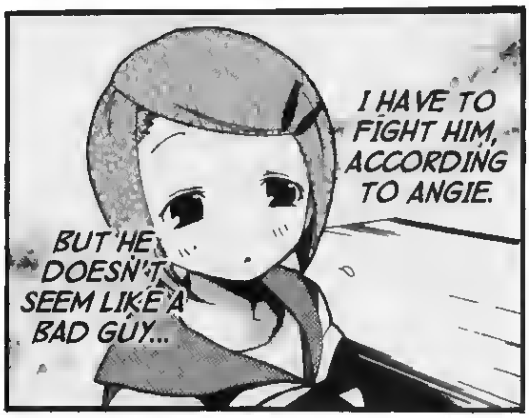

I HAVE TO FIGHT HIM, ACCORDING TO ANGIE.
BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD GUY...

I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS OF TSUBASA-SAMA!
ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO ELIMINATE HIM!
ンー!*ー!ー!

EXCELLENT!
SHE GOT CLOSE TO THE TARGET WITHOUT AROUSING HIS SUSPICIONS IN THE LEAST!

……

CAFETERIA
WOW, AYAME! YOU'VE BEEN CHOWING DOWN A STORM LATELY!
MMM...
GUESS I'VE GOT A TAPEWORM!
You bring a lunch and then have snack-breads, too!
THREE CUSTARD-BREADS, PLEASE!
IS THERE ANY CURRY-BREAD LEFT?
IT'S TOTALLY THE KENDO. ALL THE EXTRA EXERCISE MAKES ME HUNGRIER.
!!!
AYAME-DONO!
AND I GET TO SPEND TIME WITH THE SAMURAI, TOO!

!!!
AHA! AND WE EVEN CHOSE THE EXACT SAME SNACK-BREAD! HOW ENTERTAIN-ING!
S-SAMURAI!
A COINCI-DENCE, TO BE SURE!
WE GOT THE SAME THING WITHOUT EVEN REALIZ-ING.
AH…
?!
AYAME?
WH-WHO CARES?! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT MAKES ME HAPPY OR ANYTHING!!
THINK NOTHING OF IT. THE CROWDS HERE CAN BE QUITE FORMIDABLE IF YOU ARE NOT PREPARED.
THOUGH I SAW AYAME-DONO BRAVE THEM A MOMENT AGO. SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY THE CUSTARD-BREAD, LIKE THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS.
THANKS FOR GETTING OUR BREAD.
YOICHI-SAN!
……?

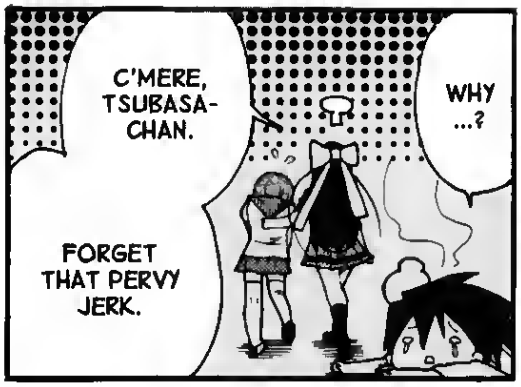
TSUBASA-DONO!
Meep!
WAH!
HERE YOU ARE, TSUBASA-DONO.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY SOME CAFETERIA FOOD!
ARE YOU UN-HURT?
THAT THUD ECHOED!
OH NO!
MY SNACK-BREAD...

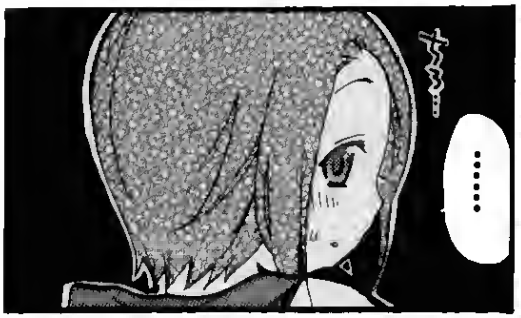
PARDON ME, TSUBASA-DONO. YOU SEEM TO HAVE CUSTARD ON YOUR BLOUSE.
N-NO, THAT'S OKAY! I CAN DO IT MYSELF.
Allow me to wipe it off.
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING...! EVERYONE IS STARING AT ME!
EEP!
OOOH...
BLUSH
MEEP!!
I slipped on custard!

WHA?!
キルゃむ

!!
I-I'M SO S-SORRY, KARASUMA-KUN!
ﾄﾞｷｭﾝ
H-HER CHEST ...!
MISHI
A-ARE YOU UNHURT?

UNGH... THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING!
I-I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE!
STOP STARING AT ME! IT'S EMBARRASSING!
STOP LOOKING!
STOP...OR I'M GONNA LOSE IT!
BA DUM
AH...
NNH...


C'MERE, TSUBASA-CHAN.
WHY ...?
FORGET THAT PERVY JERK.

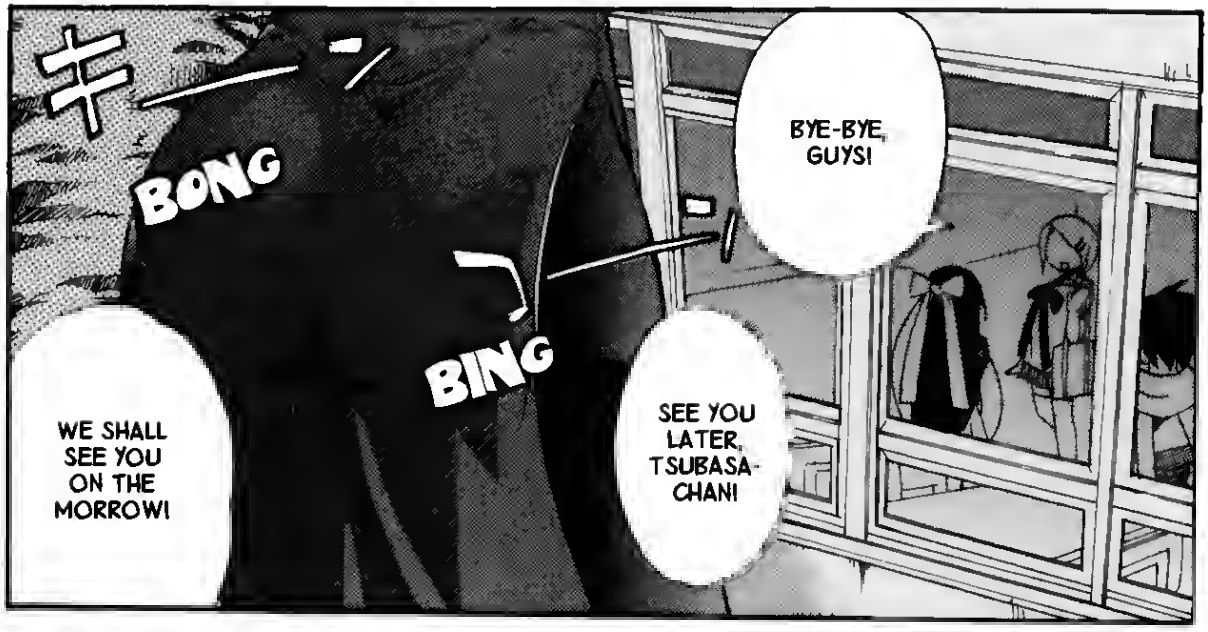

.....
hmm...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU LETCH?!

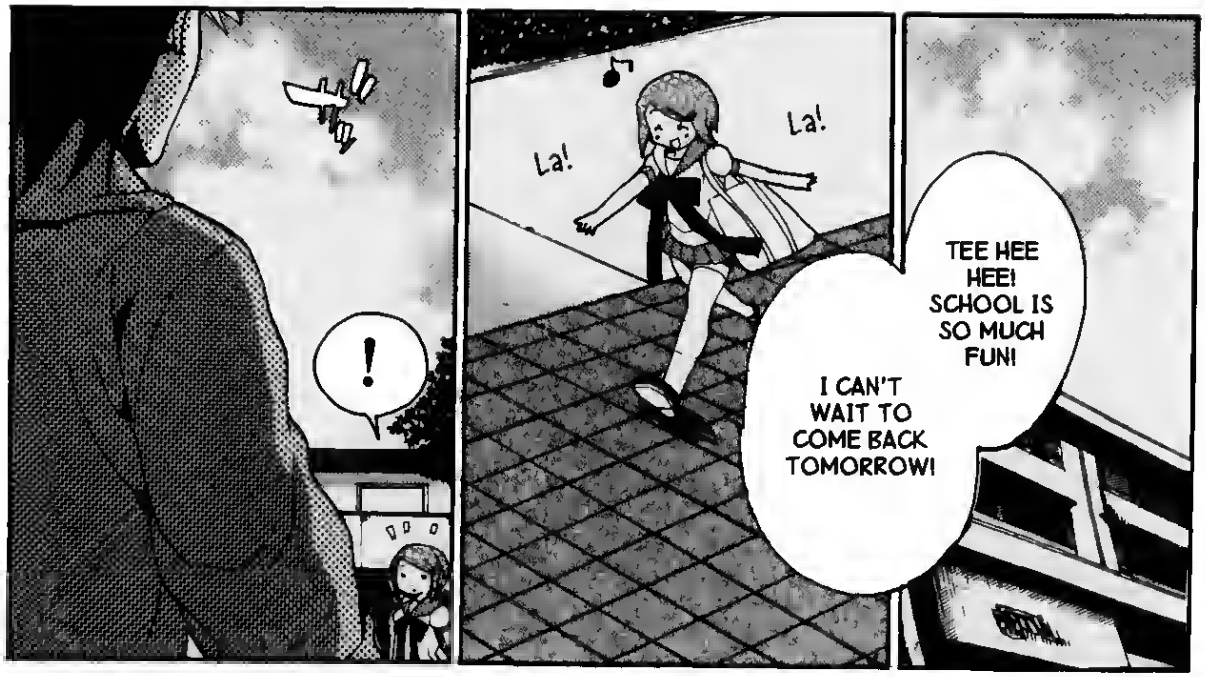
...I WOULD'VE LOST CONTROL.
IF IKARUGA-SAN HADN'T INTERVENED WHEN SHE DID..
THAT WAS CLOSE.

.....
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO BE A HIGH SCHOOLER, LIKE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED.
NO WAY WILL I LET ANYONE SEE ME LIKE THAT!

WELL DONE, TSUBASA-SAMA.
HEH HEH...
HE COULDN'T SUSPECT YOU LESS.
YOU CAN ELIMINATE HIM WHENEVER YOU'D LIKE.
YES, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE...
KILL KARASUMA!!


BONG
BING
BYE-BYE, GUYS!
SEE YOU LATER, TSUBASA-CHAN!
WE SHALL SEE YOU ON THE MORROW!

BONG
BING


!
La!
La!
TEE HEE HEE! SCHOOL IS SO MUCH FUN!
I CAN'T WAIT TO COME BACK TOMORROW!

HEH HEH! YEAH, WE SERIOUSLY OVERSLEPT, WA-SAN!
YAWN! CAN'T BELIEVE WE SLEPT ALL DAY UP ON THE ROOF.
!!
ドキ
OH MY GOSH!
IT'S HIM!!
HMM? KUNG-FU?
HE HAS EXPERIENCE WITH THE MARTIAL ARTS?
BADUM
SO WHAT'S WITH YOU SUDDENLY WANTING TO KNOW KUNG-FU?
WANNA BE A SAMURAI TOO?
WH-WHAT DO I DO?!
Wait, why am I hiding...?

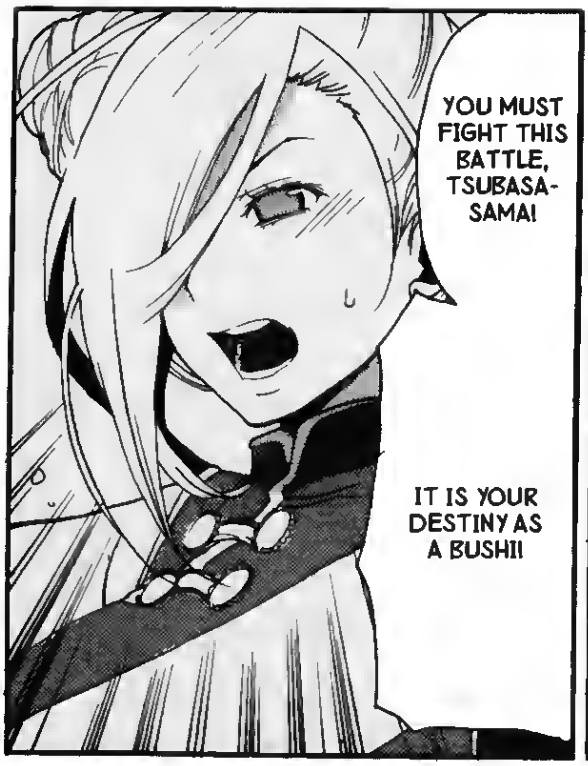
Ooh, save me!
WASHIZU'S IMAGE OF A SAMURAI
PRETTY LADY!
HA! DON'T BE STUPID, DUDE.
I'LL GO TO A DOJO, BUT I'VE GOT NO LOVE LOST ON OLD-FASHIONED SAMURAI-TYPES.
THAT OLD TRADI-TIONAL JAPANESE STUFF IS STUPID.
I HATE IT ALL!

HE THINKS ...
...OLD TRADI-TIONAL JAPANESE STUFF IS STUPID.
HUH? I DON'T GET IT, BUT YOU SOUNDED COOL!
I KNOW, RIGHT?
.....
NOO! NOT FAIR!!
TSUBASA-SAMA.
ぼわん

I SHALL BE BRIEF. HOW FARES OUR TARGET, YOICHI KARA-SUMA?
DR
ANGIE!
Why're you wearing a Chinese dress?
YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK.
TSU-BASA-SAMA!!
Eep!
H-HE'LL BE EASY TO BEAT. PRETTY SOON--
U-UM...
OOPS! I FORGOT..
...FORGOTTEN OUR REASON FOR BEING HERE, HAVE YOU?
YOU HAVE NOT...
.....

STEALTH. SECRECY. THEY UNDERPIN OUR HONORABLE AND ILLUSTRIOUS TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU STYLE.
THOUGH THESE SKILLS HAVE SERVED HISTORY'S SHADOW MASTERS FOR CENTURIES...
...THE MODERN WORLD HAS DAZZLED POTENTIAL STUDENTS WITH A BLINDING LIGHT. OUR STYLE TEETERS ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY?
TECHNOLOGY. SPY CAMERAS AND WIRE-TAPS EXECUTE THE DUTIES OUR STYLE'S MASTERS ONCE PERFORMED.
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO STAND IDLY BY. IF WE DO NOTHING, TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU WILL VANISH FOREVER.
OUR STYLE'S SLOW DEATH SEEMED INEVITABLE...
...UNTIL A CERTAIN GENTLEMAN APPEARED.

...AND I SHALL SPONSOR TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU.
ELIMINATE YOICHI KARASUMA...
SUCCEED, AND I PROMISE I SHALL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY CONSIDERABLE POWER TO REJUVENATE YOUR STYLE.


YOU MUST FIGHT THIS BATTLE, TSUBASA-SAMA!
IT IS YOUR DESTINY AS A BUSHI!

AS HEIR TO THE TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU STYLE, IT IS YOUR DUTY--NAY, YOUR HONOR!-- TO CARRY OUT THIS MISSION!
TSUBASA-SAMA!
SUCCEED, AND OUR RESTORATION IS ALL BUT ASSURED!

WAIT, NO!! COME BACK!
ANOTHER SUPERB CHOICE FOR A BODY-DOUBLE--
TSU-BASA-SAMA!!
AND...
...AND...
I'VE FINALLY MADE MY VERY FIRST FRIENDS!
MY DREAM OF NORMAL HIGH-SCHOOL LIFE IS WITHIN MY GRASP!
NO...! I CAN'T!!
カカ
!
はっ
...HE HATES BUSHI AND BUSHI FAMILIES!
I DON'T WANNA BE SOMETHING THAT HE HATES!
AH!
KARASUMA-KUN!
OH, YOU HAVEN'T WALKED HOME YET?
AH, TSUBASA-DONO!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

TSUBASA-
SAMA...
...FORGIVE
ME!!

?!
SINCE YOU REFUSED TO HEED MY WORDS_
_YOU LEFT ME WITH NO OTHER OPTION.
YOICHI KARA-SUMA!!
TSUBASA-SAMA, HEIR TO THE TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU STYLE...
...CHALLENGES YOU TO A MATCH, WITH THE REVIVAL OF OUR STYLE RIDING UPON IT!

W-WAIT ...
WHAT IS HAPPENING? TSUBASA-DONO?
DON'T STARE AT THE POOR THING, YOICHI-SAN!!
COME ON, TSUBASA-CHAN. LET'S GET YOUR CLOTHES.

YOU!
YOU'RE THAT GIRL FROM BEFORE!!
WHA?!

IBUKI-DONO ...?
.....

!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE MOVED ABOUT NORMALLY IN SOME-THING THIS HEAVY!
YOICHI-SAN!!
GET AWAY FROM TSUBASA-CHAN!!
HN?

HER CLOTHES...! THEY'RE INCREDIBLY HEAVY!!

WHAT ON EARTH ...?

HER SPEED AND AGILITY ARE FAR IMPROVED FROM JUST A MOMENT AGO!
IS THAT TRULY TSUBASA-DONO?
WHAT--?!

AND HER EXPRESSION...
IT IS AS IF ALL EMOTION HAS FLED FROM HER FACE!
IN HER UN-DIES!
IS THERE A FIGHT?
HEY, THE NEW KID!
WHY...?!
B-BUT NORMAL GIRLS DON'T DO NINJA-Y STUFF!
AS YOU HAVE NOTICED, TSUBASA-SAMA IS REGULARLY A VERY SHY LADY.
SUCH BASHFULNESS OBVIOUSLY HINDERS THE FULL UTILIZATION OF HER BATTLE SKILLS.
SURPRISED, KARASUMA?
ALLOW ME TO PRESENT TSUBASA-SAMA'S WARRIOR SIDE.

SO I HIT UPON AN IDEA.
WHY NOT FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE?
TO CONTROL HER EMBARRASSMENT, I WOULD USE EMBARRASSMENT.
I DEVISED MY TRAINING FROM THERE.
YOU MUST BE READY FOR ENEMY ATTACK, EVEN IN THE BATH!
WH-WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
NOW, ONCE HER EMBARRASSMENT BREACHES A CERTAIN LEVEL...
...ALL OF HER EMOTIONS RECEDE AND HER FULL FIGHTING PROWESS COMES TO THE FORE!

HER UNIFORM IS WOVEN FROM A UNIQUE, ULTRA-HEAVY FIBER...
...SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO SUPPRESS HER FULL STRENGTH.
IT'S YOUR LOSS, KARASUMA!
HOW FORTUNATE YOU, KARASUMA, FLOUNDER AGAINST A SCANTILY-DRESSED FEMALE OPPONENT.
WHY DO YOU WISH TO FIGHT ME?! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND!!
WH...
TSUBASA-DONO, WAIT!
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY EXPECT ME TO DO BATTLE WITH A FRIEND?!

HUH? WHAT'S THIS? A BRAWL?

GRRRRR!
.....
W-
WASHIZU-DONO...
YOU HAD ANOTHER WOMAN THIS WHOLE TIME?!
OOH!
NYA HA HA!! I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOUR NAKED BODY!
I-I FOLLOWED YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE BIG CITY, KARASUMA-SAN!
H-HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?! IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, NO LESS!
DRAMATIZATION
I SEE...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, HUH?
?
WA-SAN?
SHAKE
SHAKE
.....

THAT DOES IT, YOU STUPID SAMURAI!!
YOU'RE THE LOWEST SCUMBAG I'VE EVER MET!!

Huh...?
.....
HEY, UM.
Washi --
I GUESS YOU MUST'VE HAD THINGS PRETTY ROUGH.

?

YOUR HANDS ARE TOO SMALL AND PRETTY TO GET COVERED WITH BLOOD.
BUT YOU CAN RELAX NOW, OKAY?

DON'T WORRY. BECAUSE FROM NOW ON...
...I'LL FIGHT THAT SLEAZY SAMURAI FOR YOU!
131

?!
WHUMP
DON'T GIVE ME NO DAMN EXCUSES!
CAN IT!!
Er... I believe you may have gotten a mistaken impression--
It's ON!!
NGH...

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?! ONCE ENGAGED IN KILL-MODE, TSUBASA-SAMA NEVER STOPS UNTIL HER OPPONENT IS ELIMINATED!
TCH!
INTERFERING MEDDLERS!
WAAAH!!
TSUBASA-SAMA!
AH!
MARK MY WORDS, YOICHI KARASUMA!
WE WILL SEE OUR WISH GRANTED AND YOU DESTROYED-- NO MATTER THE COST!!
.....

...AND OF DEFEATING ME IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT END.
SHE SPOKE OF RESTORING THE TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU STYLE..
BUT WHY ME? WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING?
WAAAH!!
I SWORE I WASN'T GOING TO TURN INTO THAT--THAT THING EVER AGAIN!
STUPID, STUPID ANGIE!!
TSUBASA-SAMA --
WAAAH!
KAW KAW
BY THE BY..
WHAT AM I TO DO WITH HIM?
C'mon!! What're you waiting for?!
.....

SEVENTH BLADE: INCREDIBLE IN BED

BRING IT, SAMURAI!
I'LL CRUSH YOU SO HARD THE STAIN'LL LAST INTO NEXT WEEK!!

I DON'T KNOW. BUT SHE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE AFTER YOU.
C'mon, samurai!!
Go, Wa-san!!
WHO WAS THAT LADY, I WONDER...?

HRM...
What'cha waitin' for?!
Do it, Wa-san!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM? WHO MIGHT THEY BE?

WAIT... IS YOUR NOSE BLEEDING?!
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
Yo yo yo! C'mon!!
Yo, samurai!!

!!!
AND I WAS HONESTLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU, TOO!!
HOW CAN YOU JUST STAND THERE AND IMAGINE THEM NAKED?!
IBUKI-DONO!
WH-WHAT?!
LETCH! PERVERT! JERK!!
I HOPE THEY DO BEAT YOU UP!
IBUKI-DONO!!
PLEASE WAIT!
SILENCE
.....

WAAAH!!
WAAAH!!
Waaah!!
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT TO ME, ANGIE?!
TO FLEE IN THE FACE OF AN ENEMY IS UNLIKE YOU...
TSUBASA-SAMA! WHAT IS THE MATTER?
sniffle
sniffle
EVERYBODY'S SEEN MY MOST EMBARRASSING SECRET!!
THAT WAS THE ONE THING I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO EVER SEE!
BUT NOW EVERYBODY'S SEEN IT! EVERYBODY!!

...HIM.
EVERYBODY SAW.
ALL MY CLASSMATES.
EVEN...EVEN...

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO KEEP WRECKING THAT FOR ME?!
I JUST WANT TO BE A NORMAL GIRL!
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?!

TSUBASA-SAMA...
STAY, LIKE, TEN FEET AWAY FROM ME!!

I'M NEVER GOING TO FIGHT EVER AGAIN!
AND SO HELP ME, I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR SOUR FACE EVER AGAIN!
I HATE YOU!!
AND I HATE THE STUPID TSUBA-MEBEN TENRYUU EVEN MORE!!
.....

UM, A-
ANGIE...?
MAYBE THAT WAS A LITTLE HARSH...
ANGIE?

I MUST ADMIT, I AM ENTIRELY CONFUSED AS TO WHY TSUBASA-SAMA WOULD SUDDENLY DESPISE HER BUSHI HERITAGE SO.
ﾀｰﾝ
ﾊｧ...
BUT I AM SURE OF ONE THING--SHE IS UNFIT TO FIGHT IN THAT CONDITION.
THUS...
...THE DUTY FALLS TO ME!

...IN YOUR NAME, I FIGHT!
TSUBASA-SAMA...
THE IKARUGA DOJO.
SO THIS IS WHERE YOICHI KARASUMA RESIDES.
PREPARE YOURSELF, KARASUMA!
TONIGHT, YOUR LIFE SHALL BE SNUFFED OUT!

MUNCH MUNCH
HMM?
UKIHA KAMIKAZE'S DEFENSES SEEM RATHER LAX, VULNERABLE EVEN, TO A STYLE LIKE MINE.
HRM. INFIL-TRATING THEIR COMPOUND WAS TERRIBLY EASY.
CHOMP
GOBBL
CRUNCH

!!
WHO'S--
HUH.
SHVR
!!!
SHVR
WELL, DRAT.
SOMEBODY FOUND OUT ABOUT MY MIDNIGHT SNACKS.
PROBABLY GOING TO GET AN EARFUL ABOUT IT FROM IBUKI TOMORROW MORNING. SIGH.
WH-WHAT WAS THAT MONSTER?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN THE LIKE!

...I HAVE SET FOOT INTO A PLACE FAR MORE TERRIFYING THAN I HAD IMAGINED!
PERHAPS...

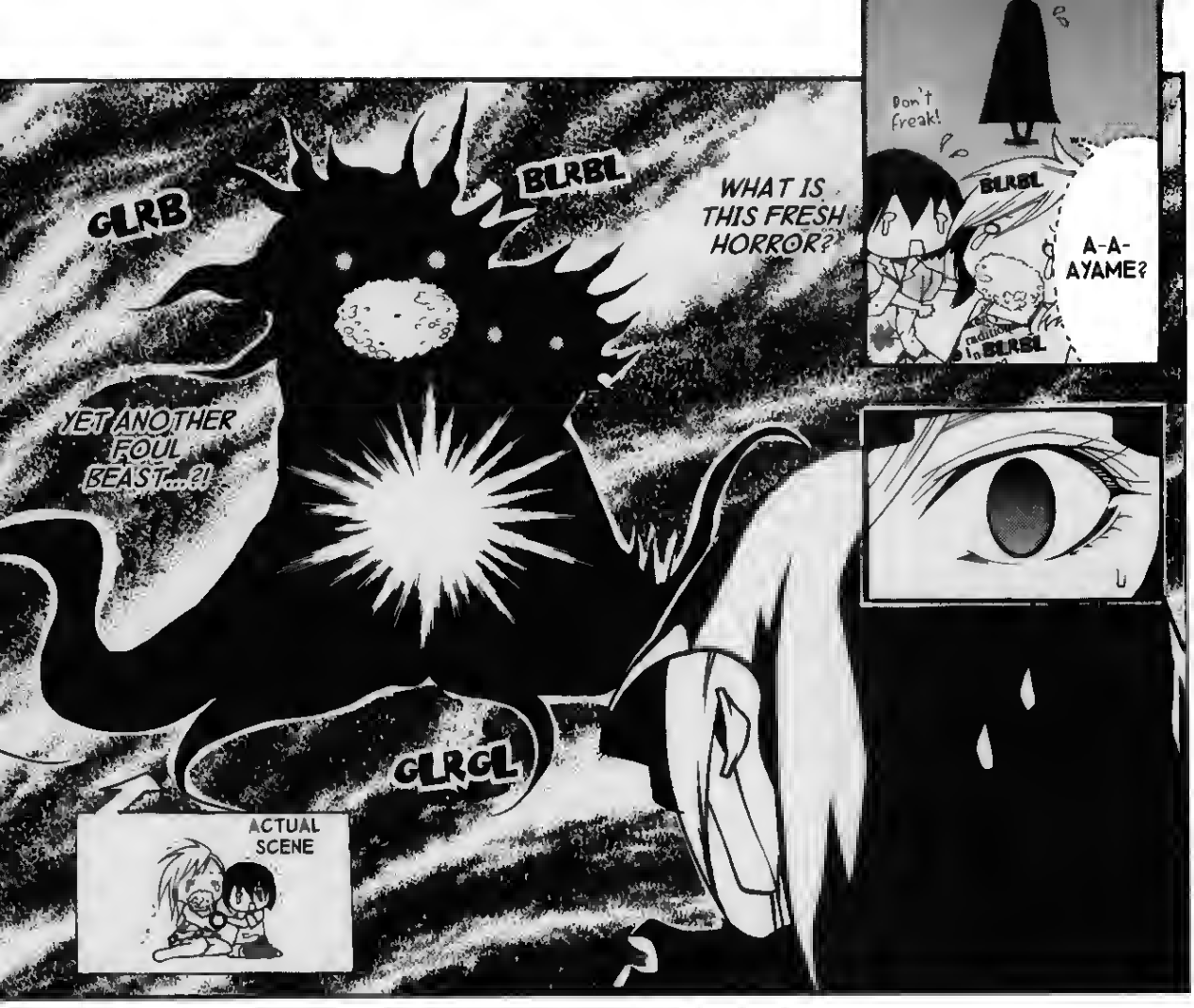
I MUST FIND WHERE HE SLEEPS AND FINISH HIM, QUICKLY!
KARASUMA'S ROOM.

DAMN!
CAMOFLAGUE

YAAAWN...
GOD, KAGOME. YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO GO PEE BY YOURSELF NOW!
B-BUT THERE MIGHT BE MONSTERS! O-OR GHOSTS!
OUR HOUSE IS OLD AND TRICKY AND I GOTTA HAVE A FLASHLIGHT!
sniffle
OH PUH-LEASE. GHOSTS AND MONSTERS DON'T EXIST.
YOU'RE LUCKY I KINDA GOTTA GO MYSELF, OR YOU'D BE ON YOUR OWN, KIDDO!
.....
Ah!
!
H-HEY!! I WASN'T HOLDING IT IN 'CAUSE I WAS TOO SCARED TO GO ALONE!
?
?
!!

RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL

RMBL
RMBL
↑ Angie
Ack!
.....!
AYAME! A GHOST! THERE'S A GHOST!
AYAME?
OH MY GOSH ...
There really IS a ghost!


GLRB
BLRBL
WHAT IS THIS FRESH HORROR?
YET ANOTHER FOUL BEAST...?!
GLRGL
ACTUAL SCENE
Don't freak!
BLRBL
A-A-AYAME?

GLRG
BRBL

BLRBL
BLRBL
AYAME. THERE'S NO MORE GHOST.
IT'S OKAY NOW. WE'RE SAFE.
……

ナ!!
HUH?

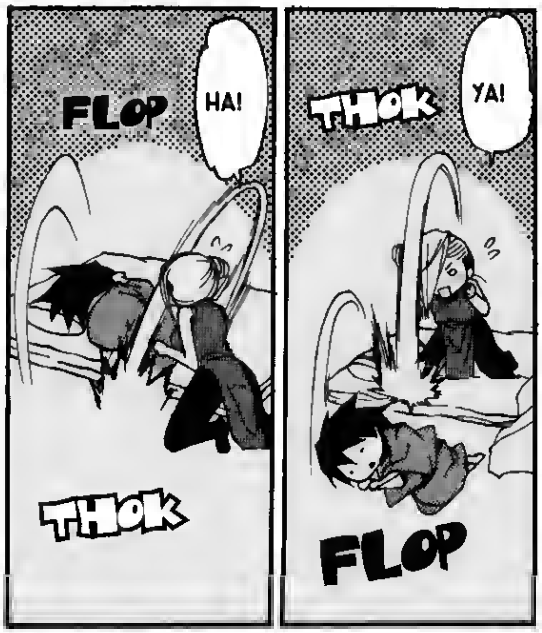
!!
SHUDDER

I WAS NEARLY DEVOURED!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
UKIHA KAMIKAZE IS TRULY A POWERFUL, TERRIBLE STYLE!
WITH SUCH HORRID CREATURES ROAMING THEIR COMPOUND, IT IS NO SURPRISE THEY NEED NO EXTRA DEFENSE AGAINST INTRUDERS!
SNORT
SNORE
SNORE
WHERE IS HE? WHERE IS KARASUMA?!
DAMN IT!
!

FOUND HIM!
...I SHALL SEVER YOUR HEAD AND PRESENT IT TO MY LADY!
...WITH THESE CLAWS, STRONGER AND SHARPER THAN ANY WEAPON ...
TONIGHT, YOICHI KARASUMA...

Grr.
.....

THOK
FLOP


FLOP
HA!
THOK
THOK
YA!
FLOP

SNORE
SNORE
Grr!!
!!!

...WHILE I KILL YOU!!
HOLD STILL...

DAMN YOU, KARASUMA--!

くしゅっ!
Zzz...
……
ピタ!!
AH...
……

DAMN!! I DROPPED MY GUARD!
GET OFF!
.....
SNORE
HE'S STILL SOUND ASLEEP!
HOW CAN HE BE SO STRONG?!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!
RRGH!

PUNT
GET READY
!!!
CURSE YOU, YOICHI! YOU MAY HAVE DARED SURPASS MY STRENGTH, BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW! SO HELPLESS EVEN I CAN DEFEAT YOU!
MRPH...? AH! FATHER! IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?!
...
BACK WHEN YOICHI WAS STILL TRAINING IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH HIS FATHER...
LET US EXPLAIN.
ZZZZ
UH...
LUCK WILL NOT SAVE YOU EVERY TIME. REMEMBER, YOUR GREATEST ENEMY IS YOUR OWN UNPREPAREDNESS.
I-IT WAS SIMPLY A TEST. FOR YOU SEE, A TRUE BUSHI MUST ALWAYS BE ALERT, EVEN WHEN SLEEPING. DISHONORABLE ENEMIES MAY ATTACK YOU WHILE YOU REST.
HA HA, N-NOT AT ALL! NOT AT ALL.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SAGE ADVICE, SIR!
I SHALL REDOUBLE MY EFFORTS IN TRAINING!
UM ...
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! AHA HA HA!
じーーーん
OH!
FATHER...!

THUS, YOICHI TRAINED TO SHARPEN HIS MENTAL ALERTNESS EVEN WHILE HIS BODY SLEPT.
AS A RESULT...
...HIS SKILLS ARE INCREDIBLE, EVEN IN BED!

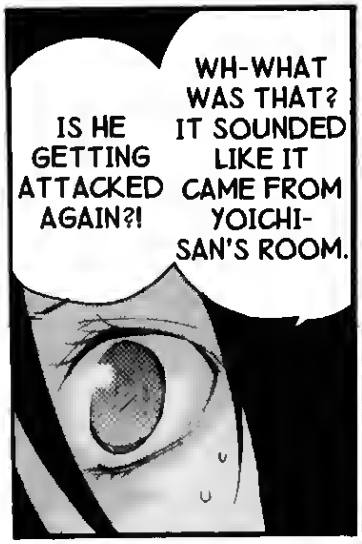
YEEP!
WHUMP
WHAT CAN I DO?!
WITH HIS EYES CLOSED, I CANNOT MANIPULATE HIS WEAK-POINT!
Weak Point
?!
MMN...
?!
I-I MUST PULL BACK AND REGROUP...
O-OH NO! I MADE A NOISE.
Nuh...?

?!
!!
Puff of Breath
Zzz...
H-HEY, STOP!
UNHAND ME!

THIS IS BAD!
RIP
SQUISH
THIS IS BAD...!
THIS IS BAD...
UNHAND ME, YOU LOUT!
THIS IS BAD!!
YES, KARASUMA IS STRONG...
...BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...
NO MORE ...!
S-STOP ...!
WHAT IS HE DOING TO ME?

SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH MY BODY...
MY STRENGTH IS EVAPORATING...!
AHN...

Grumph!
NNNGH!
NH...
NN...
AH! I CAN'T SLEEP!
IT'S ALL YOICHI-SAN'S FAULT, TOO!


WH-WHAT WAS THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM YOICHI-SAN'S ROOM.
IS HE GETTING ATTACKED AGAIN?!

!!
ドンッ

IT TICKS ME OFF!!
THAT LETCH! THAT JERK! THAT PERV!

I'M BEING DUMB...
WHY DO I LET IT GET TO ME?

NOT THAT I CARE.
Hmph!
.....

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOICHI-SAN?!
SHEESH! HE'S GONNA OWE ME FOR THIS ONE!
WHAT'S THE HUBBUB, IBUKI?
IS IT THE GHOST?! WE TOTALLY SAW A GHOST!
...HOLD THE CHEESE!

HMH ...?
WHAT IS ALL THE FUSS...?
sniff
P-PLEASE ...
PLEASE HELP ME!
sniff
sniffle
sniffle
GASP!!
EH?!
YOICHI-SAN!!!

E-ERM...
...AH...
M-MAY I...
...MAY I ASK WHAT EXACTLY JUST H-HAPPENED...?
ガク
ガク
THAT...
...IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!!
C'MON, YOITSAN. THAT'S NOT HOW YOU DO IT. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET.
YOU DON'T CARE AS LONG AS THEY HAVE A BIG OL' RACK, IS THAT HOW IT IS?!
SHEESH!
YOU'RE SUCH A JERK!

DAMN IT!
I WAS SO CLOSE! THE RESTORATION OF TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU...
...IT WAS RIGHT THERE IN MY HANDS!

MISS ...
WHY DO YOU HUNT ME?
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DESIRE?

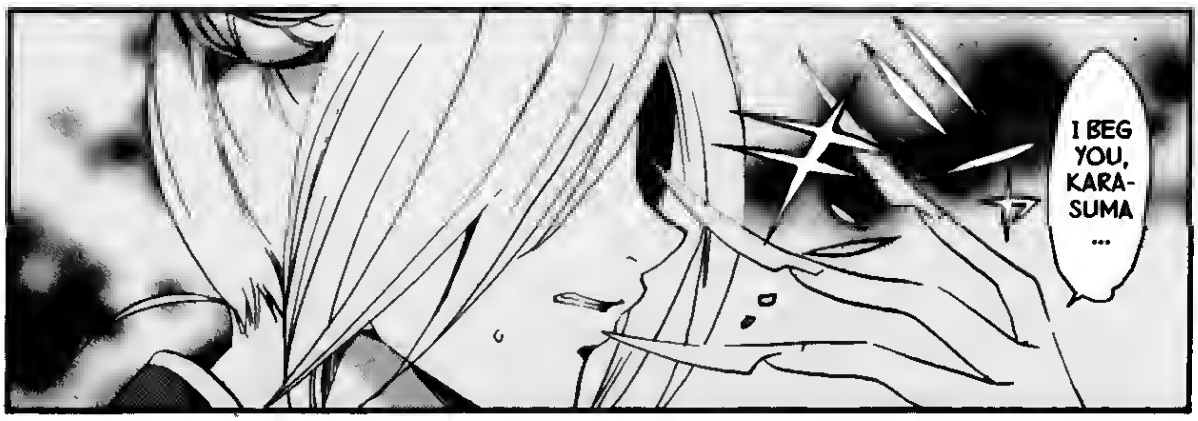
.....
ポン

A "GENTLE-MAN"?
WHAT MANNER OF GENTLE-MAN WAS HE?

THE DETAILS WERE OF NO CONCERN TO ME.
HIS OFFER WAS ONE THAT GUARANTEED THE CONTINUATION OF TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU, SO I ACCEPTED IT.

A CLIENT--
A GENTLEMAN CAME TO SEE US. HE TOLD US THAT IF WE WERE TO ELIMINATE YOU...
...HE WOULD BECOME OUR SPONSOR, HELPING US TO RESURRECT OUR NEARLY-DEAD SCHOOL.

THAT GENTLEMAN WILL HELP US MAKE TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU GREATER AND MORE PROLIFIC THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN!
...WE WILL RECEIVE AN ENORMOUS SUM OF MONEY AND A POWERFUL SUPPORTER.
WITH YOUR DEATH, KARASUMA...


I BEG YOU, KARA-SUMA ...

...BECOME A MARTYR FOR OUR GLORIOUS CAUSE!!

OF ALL PEOPLE, YOU MUST UNDER-STAND, IKARUGA
...THE HEAVY BURDEN ON THE SHOULDERS OF A DAUGHTER OF A DYING STYLE.
SURELY, YOU MUST KNOW HOW I FEEL--

YOICHI-SAN!!

DO NOT MAKE ME LAUGH!
?!

KARA-
SUMA
...
YOICHI-
SAN!!

ALL YOUR
PRIDE
REQUIRED WAS
FOR SOME
UNKNOWN MAN
TO OFFER
YOU MONEY...
...FOR YOU TO
STOOP TO
ASSASSINATION?

SUCH WEAK CONVICTIONS ...
...WILL NEVER LAY A SCRATCH ON ME!!
!!
IBUKI-DONO HERE IS SO VIOLENT THERE ARE BUT FOUR STUDENTS THAT DARE COME TO HER DOJO!
HEY!!
Grr!
BUT SHE TAKES PRIDE IN TEACHING THE TENETS AND SKILLS OF UKIHA KAMIKAZE...
...AND SO HER CLASSES ARE FUN FOR ALL.
.....!

WHAT YOU TRULY MUST EXPAND TO SAVE YOUR STYLE...
...IS THE PRIDE AND HONOR OF TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU, IS IT NOT?
IT IS NOT MONEY.
IT IS NOT SCOPE...!
.....!
SKILLS SUCH AS YOURS MUST NEVER BE SULLIED BY COWARDLY ACTS SUCH AS ASSASSINATION!
YOU AND YOUR LADY TSUBAME-DONO ARE VERY STRONG WARRIORS.

とぼ…
AH!
W-
WAIT!
……
……
ANGIE!

I'M SORRY ...!!
I-I SAID SOME REALLY MEAN THINGS BEFORE...
TSUBASA SAMA...
BUT...I STILL THINK WE SHOULD STOP FIGHTING KARASUMA-KUN.
KARASUMA-KUN ...
...IS MY VERY FIRST FRIEND.
IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE WHAT A GREAT GUY HE IS!

I'VE SAID THAT ALL I DO IS IN YOUR NAME...
MY PROFOUNDEST APOLOGIES, TSUBASA-SAMA.
I FINALLY SEE.
...BUT ALL IT HAS EVER BROUGHT YOU WERE TEARS.
.....!
I, ANGELA TAKATSUKASA...
...SHALL DO AS YOU WISH.

I HOPE THEY ARE FARING WELL.
.....
...THOSE TWO YOUNG LADIES HAVE VANISHED.
IT SEEMS ...
YEAH.
LATER!
BING BONG
BYE BYE!
YOICHI-SAN?
UM...
mumble
I'M... SORRY.
I DOUBTED YOU, AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE.

タタタ…
IBUKI-DONO?
NEVER MIND! IT'S NOTHING!
!
DOUBTED ME? ABOUT WHAT?
SMILE
OH...!
MEEP!!
AH!
KARASUMA-KUN! IKARUGA-SAN!
TSUBASA-DONO!

I'VE STARTED A PART-TIME JOB!
O-OH...
UM, THIS?
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY THE NEW CLOTHES?
ARE YOU UNHURT?
SPLAT
MEEP!
TRIP
DELIVERIES--
I'M PRETTY STRONG, SEE?
IT SEEMED LIKE SOMETHING A NORMAL GIRL WOULD DO.
TEE HEE...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE A PART-TIME JOB.
I can't watch
TSUBASA-DONO...
Uh...
I'M FINE. I AM!

!
KARA-SUMA!
AH, AND THE IKARUGA GIRL.
ARE YOU OKAY, TSUBASA-SAMA?
KARA-SUMA.
SLICE
SLICE-
YES.
HAVE YOU STARTED A PART-TIME JOB, TOO?
AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE.

THANK YOU.
IT SEEMS I HAD LOST SIGHT OF SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.
IT MAY TAKE SOME AMOUNT OF TIME...
...BUT THROUGH OUR POSITIVE EFFORTS, WE WILL REVIVE TSUBAMEBEN TENRYUU.
IN A MANNER THAT MAKES OUR STYLE--AND MYSELF--PROUD!
EXCEL-LENT!
THAT IS MOST WONDERFUL NEWS! DO FEEL FREE TO COME SEE ME WHENEVER YOU HAVE NEED OF A TRAINING PARTNER.

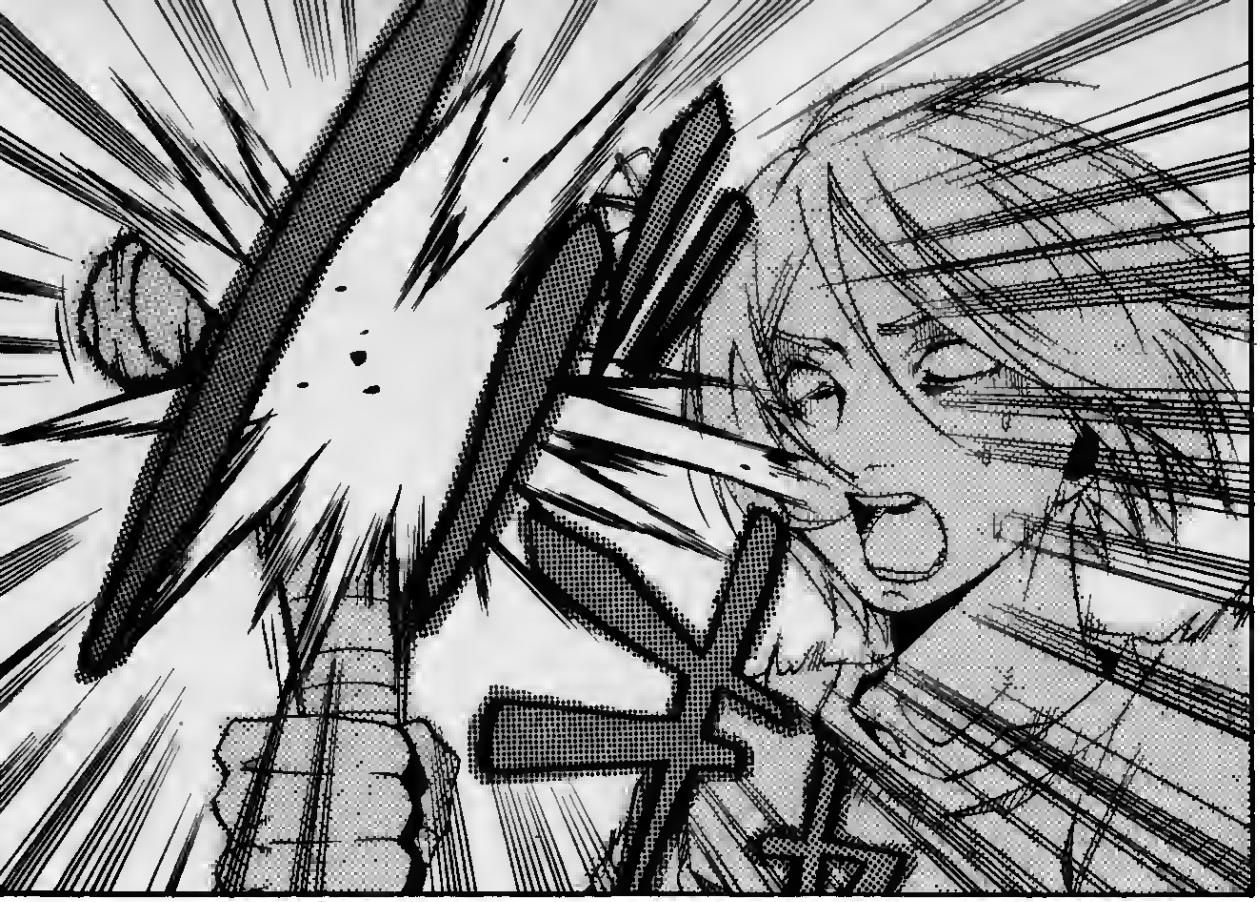
STOP BY AND HAVE LUNCH WITH US ANYTIME, OKAY?
CER-TAINLY!
Hm? Of whom do you speak?
...I-If you could invite that other cool guy to come too, I'd be really happy.
A-and, umm...
"...AND SO HER CLASSES ARE FUN FOR ALL."
"SHE TAKES PRIDE IN TEACHING THE TENETS AND SKILLS OF UKIHA KAMIKAZE..."

.....

JUST YOU WATCH, YOICHI KARASUMA.
THE NEXT TIME, THINGS WILL NOT BE SO EASY FOR YOU!!
WELL, THAT SUITS ME JUST FINE.
DAMN IT, THEY FAILED!
ぐしゃ

EIGHTH BLADE:-DATE TRAINING

SURE...
READY, MY GOOD MAN?
WELL, THEN...



KARA-
SUMA!!
FW
EE!
YES! A PERFECT SPLIT!

ボーン
THERE'S THE BELL, KIDS. THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
Yahoo!

THAT'S SCHOOL PROPERTY!
MY PRO-FOUNDEST APOLOGIES, SIR! I KEEP SEEING THAT STICK AS AN OPPONENT'S WEAPON...
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! AIM FOR THE CATCHER'S MITT, NOT THE BAT!!
I simply reach

KARASUMA-SENPAI!
Go, Hina-chan!
You can do it!
YES, MISS?
H-HERE!
PLEASE READ THIS!!
?

DAMMIT! WHEN'D YOU GET THAT SMOOTH, MAN?!
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! YOU'RE AMAZING, KARASUMA!!
THAT HOT GIRL WAS HINAGATA-SAN, RIGHT? THE FIRST YEAR?
Everybody says she's totally hot!
?
A LETTER OF CHALLENGE, PERHAPS?
?
THEN SHE MUST BE AN ELITE WARRIOR FROM A PRESTIGIOUS FAMILY!
APPEARANCE ALONE IS NO FAIR JUDGE!
TRULY?
IS HINAGATA-DONO THAT RENOWNED?
Dear Karasuma-senpai
I really, really, really, really, really like you. The moment I saw you, I knew it was love at first sight. So if you're not busy, can I go on a date with you this Sunday? I'll be waiting by the statue in front of Asamiya Station at 10am.
Love,
Yui Hinagata
I AM HONORED!
A CHALLENGE FROM A NOBLE OPPO-NENT...
120%...

SHE GAVE THIS TO YOU?!
YES.
FANCY THAT. A LOVE LETTER.
JEEZ, AND RIGHT ON THE HEELS OF THAT BUSINESS THE OTHER DAY.
COULD IT BE PART OF SOME PLOT?
BUT HINAGATA-SAN HAS BEEN GOING TO THIS SCHOOL LONGER THAN YOICHI-SAN.
I'M OVER-THINKING THINGS.
UM, YOICHI-SAN...

SHE ASKED ME ON A D-D-DATE!
AND SHE WAS SUCH A LOVELY YOUNG LADY...
WH-WHATEVER SHALL I DO?
YOU ARE SUCH A JERK!
I SIMPLY WISHED FOR YOUR ADVICE ON THIS MATTER!
THERE WAS NO REASON TO HIT ME!
THEY'RE SOOO CUTE TOGETHER! ♡
DAMMIT! WHY'S HE GETTING ALL THE HOT CHICKS?!
Squeee!

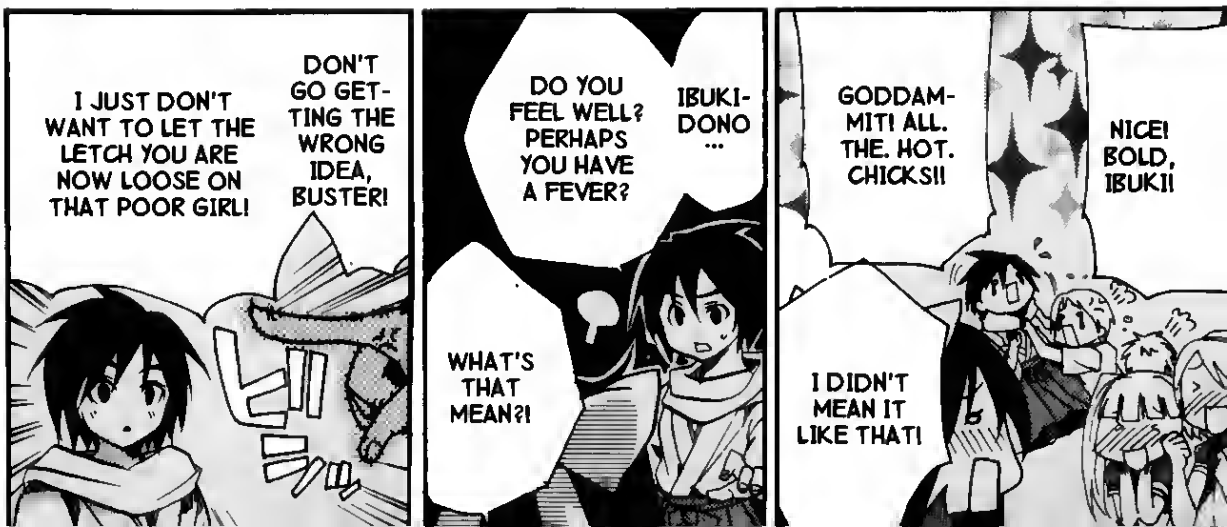
BOY TROUBLE, IBUKI?
HARDLY! MORE LIKE I'M DISGUSTED.
STUPID YOICHI-SAN! DROOLING OVER HER LIKE THAT!
I'M TIRED OF SEEING YOICHI GET ALL BLUSHY AND PATHETIC AROUND GIRLS. IT'S SO ANNOYING!
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A WARRIOR, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
WAIT! IF HE DOES GO ON A DATE...
...AND I'M NOT AROUND TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM...
Grawr!
AUGH! HECK WITH IT!
HE CAN DATE HALF THE SCHOOL IF HE WANTS! I DON'T CARE!!

PSST
PSST
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT WEIRDO DRESSED UP LIKE A SAMURAI?
HAVEN'T I SEEN HIM AT THAT UKIHA KAMI-WHATSIT SCHOOL DOWN THE STREET?
YES! GOODNESS GRACIOUS, I CAN'T BELIEVE CHILDREN THESE DAYS WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
AH, YES. THAT PLACE MUST TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO BE WEIRDOS AND SHAMELESS FREAKS IF THEY HAVE HIM AS A STUDENT!
GACK!!

YOICHI-SAN!!

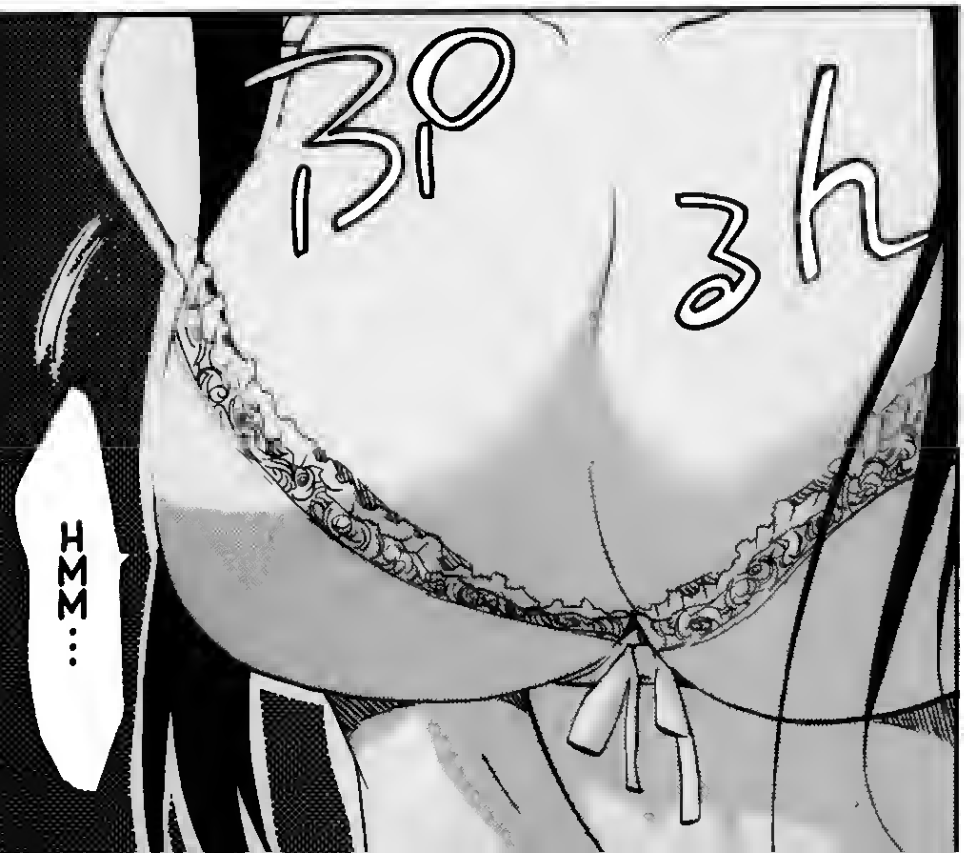
I WANT TO...
...GO ON A DATE, TOO!

!!


I JUST DON'T WANT TO LET THE LETCH YOU ARE NOW LOOSE ON THAT POOR GIRL!
DON'T GO GET-TING THE WRONG IDEA, BUSTER!
IBUKI-DONO ...
DO YOU FEEL WELL? PERHAPS YOU HAVE A FEVER?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!
GODDAM-MIT! ALL. THE. HOT. CHICKS!!
NICE! BOLD, IBUKI!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!

THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE A REAL DATE
IT WILL BE TRAI-NING!
WE'LL GO ON A REHEARSAL DATE!

Ikaruga-san!
Ibuki-chan!


30
3h
HMM…

A DATE, HUH?
WHAT AM I GOING TO WEAR?
WHAT ABOUT THIS?
Maybe it's too close to what I normally wear...
Hmm...
THIS, MAYBE?
WAIT. WHY AM I TAKING THIS SO SERIOUSLY?
IT'S NOT EVEN A REAL DATE. AND IT'S WITH YOICHI-SAN OF ALL PEOPLE!

YEEP!
WHATCHA DOIN', IBUKI?
CHIHAYA! KAGOME! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HOME.
Oh yeah, "knock knock."
YO!
A-A-ANYWAY, I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING SPECIAL!
JUST GOING OFF TO DO SOME SHOPPING, OKAY?
Aha
Oho ho ho ho!
OWCH!
TRIP
OH REEEALLY NOW...?

THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THIS VIEW STILL AWES ME...
...MUCH THE SAME AS IT DID THE DAY I FIRST ARRIVED HERE.
The buildings are all so very tall!
OH YEAH. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...I'VE NEVER PROPERLY SHOWN YOICHI-SAN THE CITY.

WHAT'CHU TALKIN' ABOUT, KID?
Rargh!
HOLD, YOU FILTH! YOU DARE CLASH AGAINST MY BLADE WITHOUT EVEN AN APOLOGY?!
YOICHI-SAN, IS THERE ANYWHERE IN PARTICULAR YOU'D LIKE TO GO SEE?
I GUESS NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY. AND IT TOTALLY MAKES SENSE FOR A DATE!
!!
AAIEE!!
UNACCEP-TABLE!! THE CLASHING OF SHEATHES IS THE GREATEST INSULT YOU CAN OFFER A TRUE BUSHI!!!
CRAZY KIDS. OFF THE DEEP END...
ARE THEY SHOOTING A MOVIE?
DIDJA SEE THAT? FREAKY!
Noo!
IT'S GOTTA BE A MOVIE.
WHOA, THAT CHICK IS SCARY-STRONG!
I'M SO SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU ALL!! PLEASE DON'T MIND US!! I'M SORRY!!

IBUKI-DONO.
YOU ARE NOT GOING ON A DATE IN A KIMONO AND CARRYING A BOKUTO! YOU'LL GET YOURSELF INTO A FIGHT EVERY THREE STEPS!
NO WAY
THE TOP IS DISTRACTING, AND THE TROUSERS ARE HORRIBLY CONSTRICTING...
THESE GARMENTS RESTRICT MY MOVEMENT.
BE-SIDES...
...THOSE DON'T LOOK HALF-BAD ON YOU.
SEE?

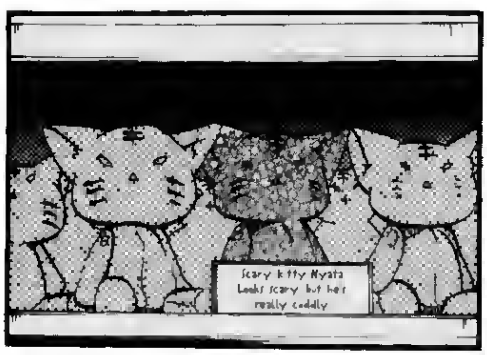
SQUISH
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO-THING ...
LOOK AT THE CUTE KITTIES!
Scary kitty Nyata
Scary kitty Nyata
Scary kitty Nyata
OOH! YOICHI-SAN, LOOK!
THEY TRULY ARE WOND-ROUSLY LARGE...
SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS. ♡
.....?
Cute?
THE ORANGE ONE IS SO CUTE! SO'S THE BLUE!
WHICH ONE DO YOU LIKE BETTER, YOICHI-SAN?

I AM SURPRISED.
I HAD NOT THOUGHT YOU ONE TO BECOME SO EXCITED OVER THINGS FASHIONABLE.
HUH?

IBUKI-DONO...?
WSH
TIME'S A WASTIN'! C'MON, YOICHI-SAN!

I, UH...
OH. UM.

.....
Ha?


Scary kitty Nyata
Looks scary but her really cuddly

I HOPE HE DIDN'T THINK I WAS CHILDISH OR ANYTHING.
OH GOD, I AM SUCH AN IDIOT!
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE ONE HERE!

FITTING ROOM
C'MON! LAY OFF.
'COURSE, THOSE NICE LEGS OF YOURS WOULD LOOK GREAT IN ANY SKIRT, AYAME-CHAN.
IT'S A PER-FECT FIT!
LOOKS GOOD!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
TA-DA!
NOW IF ONLY YOUR BOOBS WERE BIGGER.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW THE SAMURAI MY NEW OUTFIT!
HEY, AYAME? ISN'T THAT YOUR SISTER OVER THERE?
YIKES! SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN IT! HONEST!
WELL EXCUSE ME FOR BEING FLAT!
HUH?
Stop squeezing them!

?!
SORRY, I JUST REMEMBERED I HAD AN... APPOINTMENT TODAY! BYE!
SAY WHAT?!
Who's going to pay for those clothes?!

STRIKE!
NOW THAT'S HOW YOU KNOCK PINS DOWN!
WELL DONE, IBUKI-DONO!
BOWLING WOULD BE GREAT FOR YOICHI-SAN. THE RULES ARE EASY ENOUGH...
AND HE'S ATHLETIC, SO HE'LL PICK IT UP FAST AND EVEN HAVE FUN.
ALLOW ME TO TRY.

?!
?
You splintered the pin!
THROWING THE BALL?! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!
THIS...MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN I EXPECTED.
.....
NOW LISTEN!
YOU DON'T THROW IT, YOU ROLL IT DOWN THE LANE.

HOLD IT THERE, LIKE THAT.
NOW, LOOK AT THE LITTLE TRIANGLE MARKS ON THE LANE AND...
.....

HN?
OW...
THAT HURT...!
OH MY GOD! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
!!!
N-NO, NO! I-IT WAS I WHO--
O-OH! SORRY! I SHOU-LDN'T HAVE LEANED IN SO CLOSE.
DROP
!!!
!!
Bow Chica Wow Wow

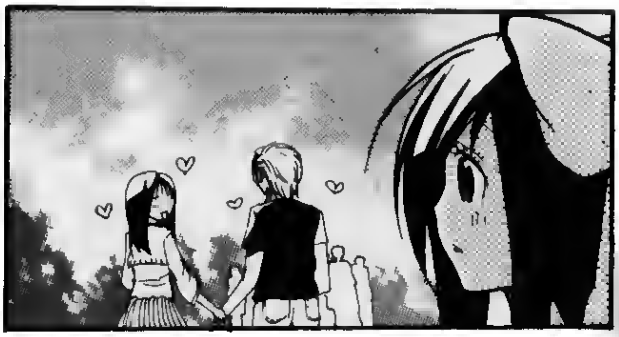
DON'T LOOK, STUPID!!
WHA--?!
Knock it off, you two! You're not the only customers here, y'know!
Hey!
I THOUGHT SO.
THAT'S THE SAMURAI.
I COULDN'T TELL AT FIRST WITH THE REGULAR CLOTHES, BUT...IT'S HIM.
ALONE WITH HER, SHOPPING AND BOWLING.
WITH HER.

...THEY'RE GOING ON A...A...
IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE...
CHIHAYA! KAGOME!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!
HEYA.
YEP!
THAT'S A DATE.
WAUGH!!
I'M BOWLING! IS IT A CRIME TO BOWL BY MYSELF?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I JUST HAD TO KNOW WHY IBUKI WAS SO FLUTTERY THIS MORNING.
I'M RESEARCHING, OF COURSE.
.....
Heh heh...

Hah hah...
GUESS NOT. STILL, WHEN DID THOSE TWO BECOME THAT CLOSE?
A gutterball?!
Huh?!
HMM?
WHAT, ARE YOU LEAVING?
JEALOUS, MAYBE?
HELL NO!
IT'S JUST...
...NOT RIGHT, Y'KNOW?
INTERRUPTING THEM AND STUFF.
WELL, MY INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.
AWWW!

PERHAPS I WAS MIS-TAKEN.
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
!
FOR-GET ABOUT IT!
YOU'D BETTER FOCUS ON PRAC-TICING!
KNOCK DOWN AT LEAST ONE PIN BEFORE WE GO...
I... THOUGHT I SENSED SOMEONE.
...OKAY?
YES!

2 PTS
HOOOWL!!
TSUBASA-CHAN SEEMED TO BE HAVING A BLAST.
INDEED. I WISH THEM THE BEST IN REBUILDING THEIR STYLE.
.....



HE STILL TALKS STRANGELY...

May they have godspeed and every success!

...BUT IN THOSE CLOTHES, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT.

...IF THAT'S WHAT WE LOOK LIKE TO OTHER PEOPLE RIGHT NOW?

I WONDER...

HUH?

UM, N-NO, IT'S NOT--

HN? IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

OH!

THAT'S RIGHT. IBUKI-DONO!

YEEP!

ボヨヨン
どっ
IBUKI-DONO!!

B-BEG PAR-DON!
I MEANT ONLY TO BREAK YOUR FALL.
I HAD NO--
YOICHI-SAN ...
!!
?
Tee hee hee!
B-BESIDES, IT IS NOT MY FAULT YOU TRIPPED!
!!
HEE ...
...I ALWAYS END UP LIKE THIS, DON'T I?
AHA HA HA!
YOU KNOW, WHENEVER I'M AROUND YOU...

AT SCHOOL, I CAN SLIP INTO THE ROLE OF TOP STUDENT...
...BUT AROUND YOU I JUST SLIP UP!
IBUKI-DONO.
I APOLOGIZE FOR STARTLING YOU EARLIER.
I HAD JUST REMEMBERED I WISHED TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS. THAT WAS ALL.
OH MY...!
THE KITTY FROM BEFORE...!

THANK YOU, YOICHI-SAN!
I LOVE IT!
YOUR DESIRE FOR ONE WAS CLEAR.
SO I PURCHASED IT BEFORE FOLLOWING YOU FROM THE STORE.
.....!
IBUKI-DONO ...
YES, SHE CERTAINLY DID WANT THAT TOY VERY MUCH.
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
SQUEE!

YOU HAVE MY MOST HUMBLE THANKS...
...FOR AIDING ME ON THIS REHEARSAL.

TH-THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS JUST PRACTICE.
UM... GOOD JOB.
AHA HA HA...
THE TRUE DATE SHALL PROCEED WITHOUT FLAW!
CONSIDER THE TOY A TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION FOR ALL YOUR ASSISTANCE!
.....
?
HUH?
"REHEA-RSAL"?
I-I'M GOING TO GO GET SOME DRINKS OUT OF THAT VENDING MACHINE OVER THERE! SIT TIGHT!
!
IBUKI-DONO?

WHEN'D HE GET BEHIND US?
OH, HEYA, YOICHI-SAN.
AH! BEST OF LUCK WITH THAT.
I'M DOING RESEARCH.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
CHIHAYA-DONO! KAGOME-DONO!
!!
I COULD NOT IDENTIFY WHO--
SO IT WAS YOU TWO FOLLOW-ING US.
AAAH!!
THAT...
THAT WAS IBUKI-DONO'S VOICE!

YEAH, BABE. YOU'RE WAY TOO HOT FOR THAT PUNK.
HEY THERE, HONEY. WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU AND Y'KNOW...
...I THINK YOU'RE WAY TOO GOOD FOR THAT SCRAWNY FLEA WHO'S BEEN PESTERIN' YOU.
EXCUSE ME! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
SO HOW 'BOUT IT? DITCH THE DORK AND COME HANG WITH US.
YES...
HE REALLY IS A LETCH AND A PERVERT AND THE BIGGEST, MOST USELESS JERK I'VE EVER KNOWN.
OH, AND LOSE DUMB CAT. WE'LL GET YOU NICE STUFF.
!
HMM ...?
.....

IT WAS JUST A STUFFED ANIMAL THEY THREW ON THE GROUND...
BUT I GUESS...
...THAT MAKES ME PRETTY STUPID, TOO.
...SO WHY DID IT MAKE ME SO VERY MAD...?
IBUKI-DONO!
BIG SIS!
!!

けちょーん
OH! HI, CHIHAYA. KAGOME. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE. WHY IS EVERYONE OUT OF BREATH?

AAH. I MUST SAY, THAT IS VERY LIKE YOU.
HEH.

I-IBUKI-DONO! WHAT ON EARTH...
OH, THESE TWO? THEY STARTED HITTING ON ME, SO I HIT BACK.
I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW! ♡

CURSES! THERE I GO AGAIN, SAYING SOMETHING TO ANGER HER!
……

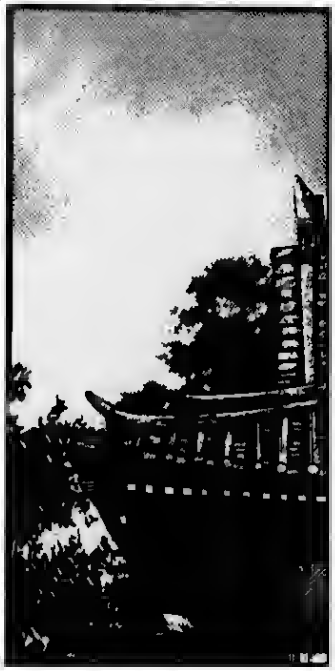
ス...
"LIKE ME," HMM?
YES... YES, I GUESS IT IS.

...?

ANY-WAY...
IT'S STARTING TO GET DARK OUT.
WHY DON'T WE ALL GO HOME AND HAVE SOME DINNER?

ズooo

YOU'RE KIDDING!
IT WAS ONLY A REHEARSAL DATE?!



Gyaa!!
...IF THAT WAS A REHEARSAL, THAT MEANS THERE'S GOING TO BE A REAL ONE LATER!!
WITH WHO?! WHEN?! WHERE?!
THIS IS SO MUCH FUN...
EEP!

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH.
OH. SO THAT'S ALL IT WAS.

WHEW. THEY AREN'T GOING OUT, THEN.
WAIT ...

HMM ...
LET'S SEE...
Research Notes

イヨ
ポン ポン
ポン ポン…

BUT WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE APPOINTED PLACE...
AHA HA HA HA!! SEE? HE DID COME!
I WIN! I TOLD YOU HE WAS GULLIBLE ENOUGH TO FALL FOR IT!
DAMMIT! AND I HAD 500 YEN RIDING ON HIM NOT SHOWING.
AHA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!
He's even wearing normal clothes!

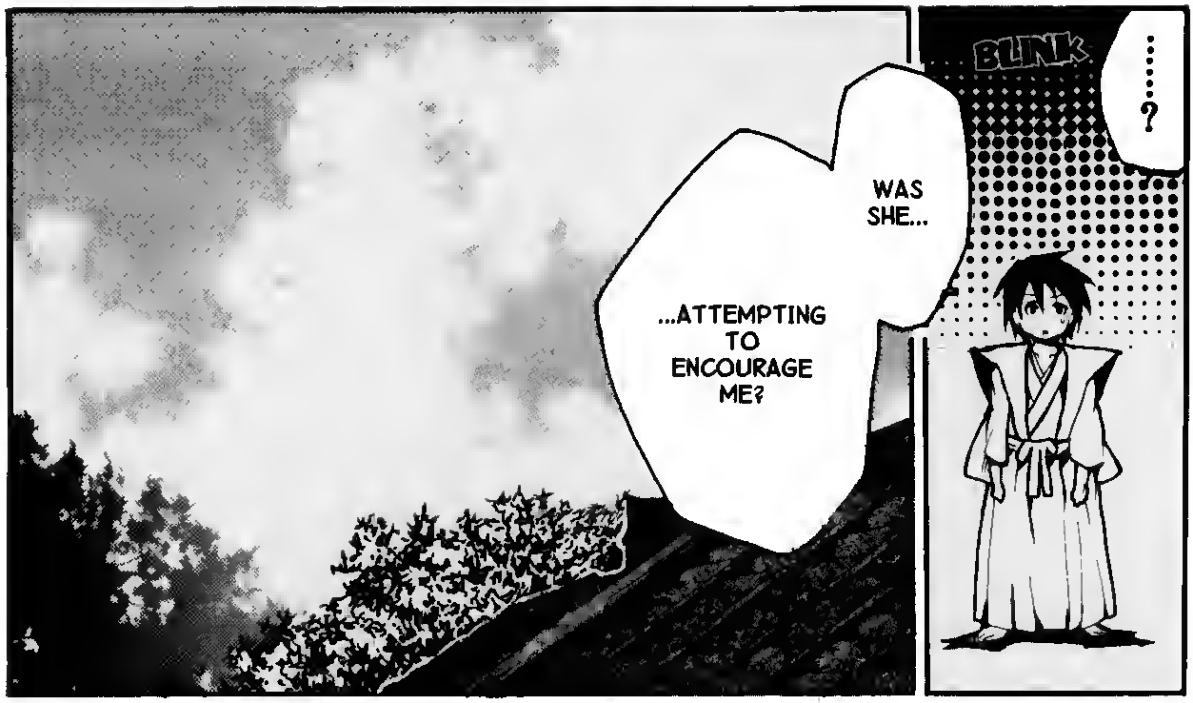
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE GOING ON YOUR DATE TODAY?
I DID GO.
But, no, You'd rather commit seppuku

I WAS SO ENTHRALLED BY HER PROPOSITION THAT I WAS UTTERLY BLIND TO HER TRUE MOTIVES!! SUCH ABJECT FAILURE IS APPALLING!!
WHOA, WHOA.
C-CALM DOWN, YOICHI-SAN.
THE ONLY WAY TO EXPUNGE THIS DISHONOR IS DEATH BY SEPPUKU!

DO NOT STOP ME!
Wahh!!
I MUST ATONE FOR MY FAILURE AS A BUSHI!
I SAID CALM DOWN!!
ばちーん

SHEESH!
YOU GET STOOD UP ALL OF ONCE, AND NOW YOU'RE WHINING?!
TRUE BUSHI DON'T WHINE AND CARRY ON LIKE CHILDREN!
BOING

YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON, YOICHI-SAN!
YOU'RE NICE, AND YOU DO LOTS OF KIND THINGS FOR PEOPLE.
BUT JUST BECAUSE ONE GIRL DOESN'T LIKE YOU DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN KILL YOURSELF!
WELL, YOUR PARDON, LADY, FOR BEING SUCH AN IMBECI--
YES, YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT GIRL WAS PULLING YOUR CHAIN. I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY A PRETTY, POPULAR GIRL LIKE HER WOULD EVER TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY!
WHAT?!
ZIING
LIKE M--
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO LIKE YOU!
.....
GULP



TO BE CONTINUED

BONUS

SCOOP!

THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR

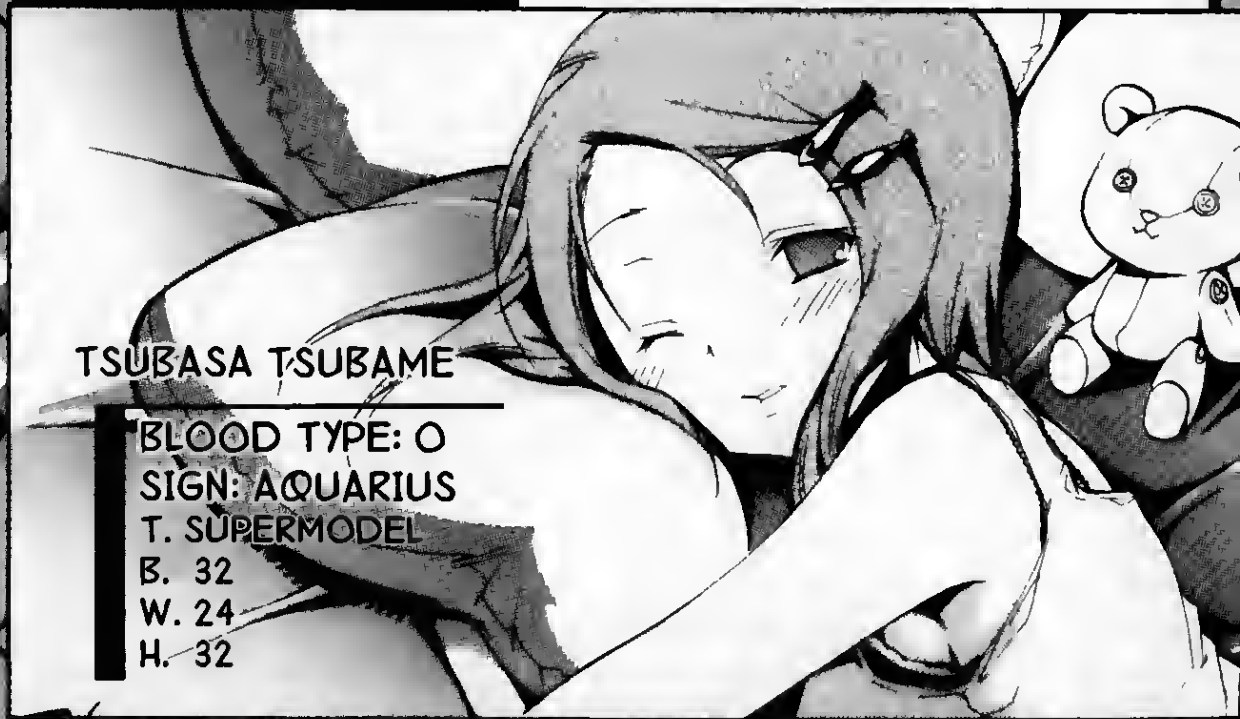
WE HERE AT IDOLPOP HAVE ACCEPTED ALL YOUR SUBMISSIONS OF BEAUTIFUL GIRL SIGHTINGS AND COMPILED THEM INTO ONE COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION! TODAY'S TREATS ARE TWO INCREDIBLE AND INVINCIBLE DELIVERY GIRLS AT THE ASAMIGAWA RAMEN SHOP!

SWEET TART TSUBASA-CHAN MAY LOOK LIKE A LITTLE GIRL, BUT SHE'S BIG WHERE IT COUNTS! HEADS OUT OF THE GUTTERS, KIDDOS--WE MEAN ARM STRENGTH! MOVE ASIDE, SUPERMAN--WE'RE BETTING LITTLE TSUBASA-CHAN CAN LIFT A LOT HEAVIER CARGO THAN RAMEN DELIVERIES! SEE FOR YOURSELF AND CALL FOR AN ORDER AT XXX-XXXX.

TSUBASA TSUBAME

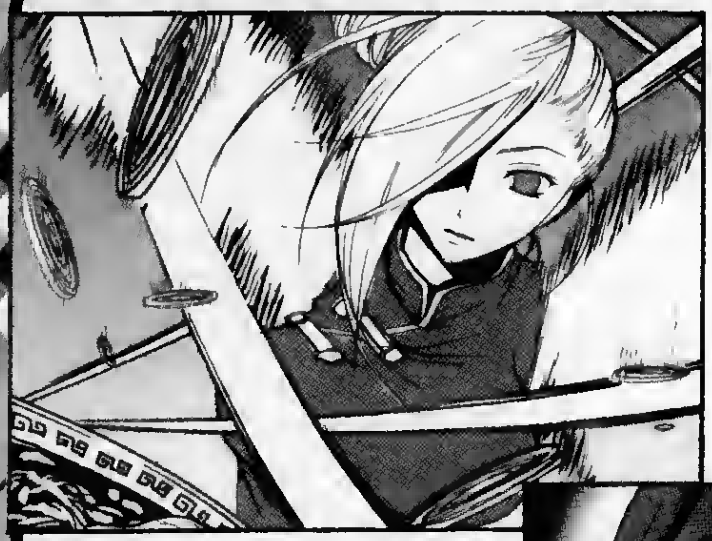
TURN-OFFS: ANYTHING THAT'S NOT PERFECTLY EVERYDAY AND ORDINARY.

TURN-ONS: SHOJO MANGA, PARFAITS, CAKES, GIRLY STUFF, NORMAL DUDES (SCORE!!!).

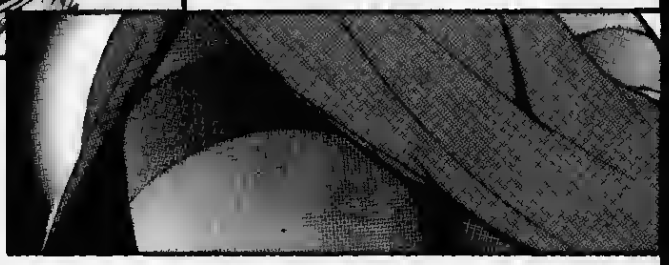


TSUBASA TSUBAME

BLOOD TYPE: O
SIGN: AQUARIUS
T. SUPERMODEL
B. 32
W. 24
H. 32

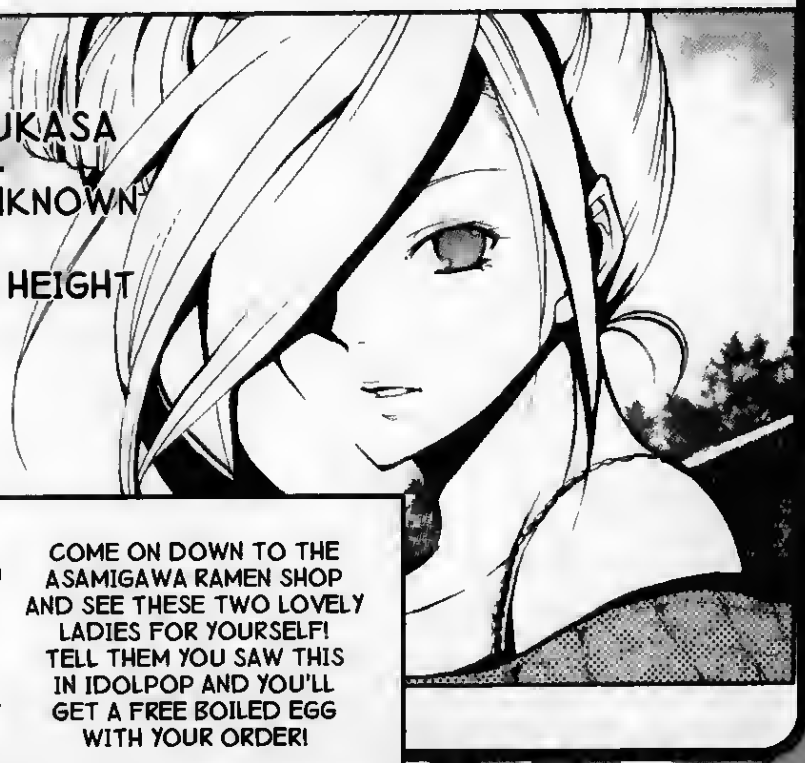


WITH LIGHTNING-FAST STROKES, IT'S POSSIBLE YOU MIGHT MISS THE KNIFE AS SHE SLICES ONIONS. BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MISS HER BOUNTIFUL BODY AND SUPREMELY FLATTERING CHINESE DRESS. IS THAT FAN CLUB TO APPRECIATE HER SKILL OR HER "ASSETS"?



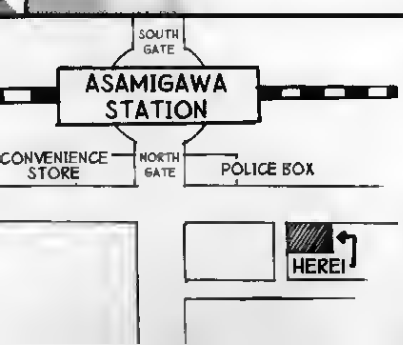
TURN-OFFS: LOOSE LIPS (THEY SINK SHIPS). ICE QUEEN ANGELA PUT US IN OUR PLACE WHEN WE ASKED FOR PERSONAL DETAILS: "DO NOT THINK I WILL DISCLOSE INFORMATION ABOUT MYSELF TO STRANGERS SO EASILY!" SHE QUIPPED, TURN-ONS: WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR GLOBAL WARMING TO MELT HER ICY EXTERIOR.

ANGELA TAKATSUKASA



ANGELA TAKATSUKASA

BLOOD TYPE: UNKNOWN
SIGN: UNKNOWN
T. SUPERMODEL HEIGHT
B. HUGE
W. SLEEK
H. DYNAMIC



COME ON DOWN TO THE ASAMIGAWA RAMEN SHOP AND SEE THESE TWO LOVELY LADIES FOR YOURSELF! TELL THEM YOU SAW THIS IN IDOLPOP AND YOU'LL GET A FREE BOILED EGG WITH YOUR ORDER!

END

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

IT'S FUN IN THE SUN WHEN IBUKI WINS AN ALL-EXPENSES PAID TRIP TO AN ISLAND RESORT! BUT LITTLE KAGOME PUTS A DAMPER ON THE FESTIVITIES WHEN SHE REFUSES TO GO SWIMMING WITH THE GANG, AND AFTER A BIT OF GOOD-NATURED RIBBING, RUNS OFF INTO THE WOODS! AND LATER, WE MEET THE EVIL MASTERMIND WHO HIRED TSUBASA AND ANGELA TO ASSASSINATE YOICHI! SEEMS LIKE THERE'S MORE TO THIS "FREE VACATION" THAN FIRST MEETS THE EYE...

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